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HISTORY
OF
Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties
Minnesota

THEIR PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

JOHN A. BROWN
Editor-in-Chief

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

VOLUME I

ILLUSTRATED

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DEDICATION

To those whose hands planted the first homes in Cottonwood and Watonwan counties; whose love of religion and education established the first churches and schools; whose desire for good government led to the organization of civil townships and the selection of worthy public officials; whose wish for material prosperity has caused the building of mills and factories and the opening of virgin tracts of land to cultivation—to those who are gone, as well as to the many pioneers still living, is this record of their achievements dedicated.

PUBLISHERS' PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and sacrifice. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Cottonwood and Watonwan counties, Minnesota, with what they were five decades ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, they have come to be centers of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, educational and religious institutions, varied industries and immense agricultural and dairy interests. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, religious, educational, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception, is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to those who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Cottonwood and Watonwan counties for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS

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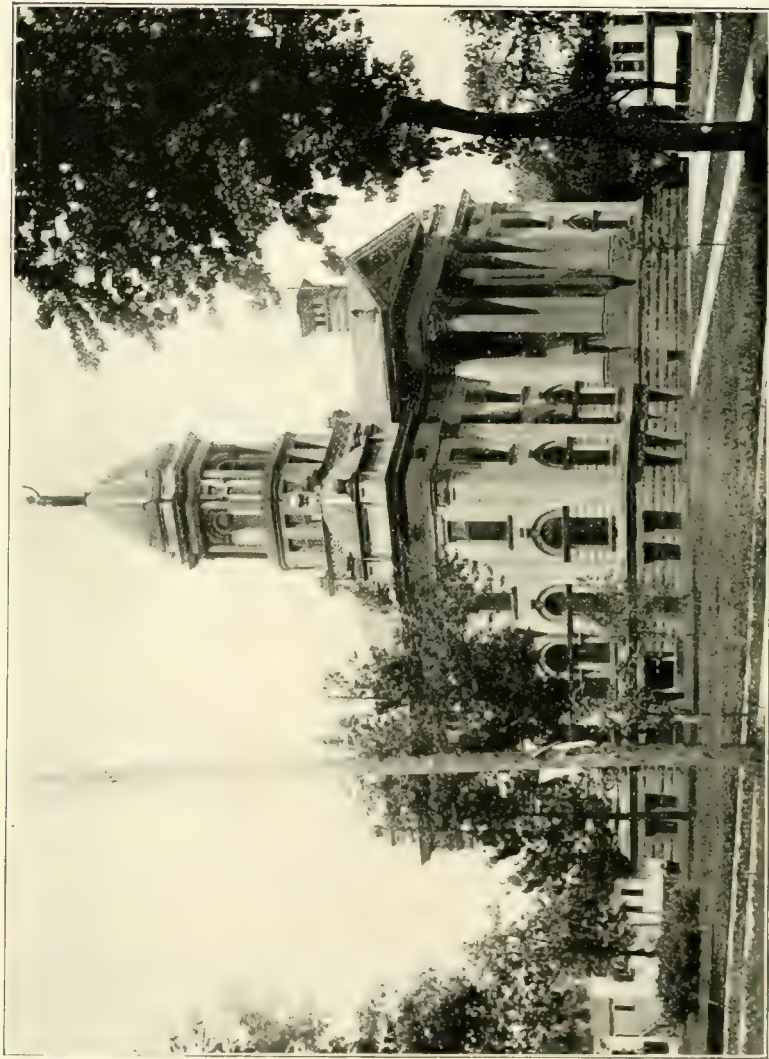
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COTTONWOOD COUNTY COURT HOUSE, WINDOW.

COTTONWOOD COUNTY

MINNESOTA

CHAPTER I.

RELATED STATE HISTORY.

The greater part, or about two-thirds, of the territory embraced within the boundaries of Minnesota was included in the Louisiana Purchase, ceded to the United States by France in 1803. The remainder of this state, comprising the northeastern third part, lying east of the Mississippi river, was included in the country surrendered from Great Britain by the treaty of 1783, at the end of the Revolutionary War. In 1805 a grant of land nine miles square, at the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Peter (now Minnesota) rivers, was obtained from the Sioux Indians. A military post was established on the grant in 1819, and in 1820 arrangements were made for the erection of a fort, which was completed in 1822 and named Ft. Snelling, after the commanding officer, and the grant has ever since been known as the Ft. Snelling Reservation. In 1823 the first steamboat ascended the Mississippi as far as Ft. Snelling; and annually thereafter one or two trips of steamboats were made to this isolated post for a number of years.

This territory was held by the Chippewa or Ojibway and the Dakota or Sioux Indians, but adventurous pioneers had penetrated into the country along the streams tributary to the Mississippi river, and in 1836 Wisconsin territory was organized, comprising all the territory west of Lake Michigan, and including within its limits all the country west of the Great Lakes and north of Illinois, the west boundary of the territory being the Mississippi river.

INDIAN TREATIES.

In 1837 two important treaties were made with the native tribes of Indians. The first one was made by Gov. Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin, with the Ojibways, at Ft. Snelling, on the 29th of July, of that year, whereby

they ceded to the United States all their pine or agricultural lands on the St. Croix river and its tributaries.

On the 29th of September, of the same year, at the city of Washington, a treaty with the Sioux was made by Joel R. Poinsett, a special commissioner representing the United States, and about twenty chiefs, accompanied by Major Taliaferro, their agent, and Scott Campbell, an interpreter. Through the influence and by the direction of Governor Dodge, this delegation of chiefs had proceeded to Washington for the purpose of making this treaty, by which the Dakotas, or Sioux, ceded to the United States all their lands east of the Mississippi river and all its islands. The Indians were to receive as consideration for the same \$110,000 in cash, to be divided among the mixed bloods, \$90,000 in payment of debts owing by the tribes, and \$300,000 to be invested in five per cent. stocks, the interest of which should be paid to them annually.

In 1848 Wisconsin adopted a state constitution, but ignored the enabling act, and made the northern part of the western boundary of the state along the line of the St. Louis and Rum rivers, which was not accepted by the United States government, and the boundary line from the Mississippi river to Lake Superior became fixed, as in the enabling act, on the line of the St. Croix river and in a direct line to the mouth of the St. Louis river.

After the acceptance of the Wisconsin constitution, in May, 1848, the territory north and west of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers being practically without a government, the Hon. John Catlin, claiming to be still secretary and acting governor of Wisconsin territory, issued a proclamation for a special election, to elect a delegate to Congress. The election was held on October 30, and Hon. H. H. Sibley was chosen delegate, and after some delay was admitted as such into the Congress of the United States.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED.

On March 3, 1849, Congress passed an act to establish the territorial government of Minnesota. It fixed the seat of government at St. Paul, and established the southern boundary of the territory along the north and west boundary line of the state of Iowa, from the Mississippi river to the Missouri river, the western boundary through the middle of the channel of the Missouri river to the mouth of the White Earth river, and up the middle of the channel of the White Earth river to the boundary line between the United States and Great Britain, the northern boundary running thence easterly and southeasterly on the international boundary line to Lake Super-

ior, and the eastern boundary running thence in a straight line to the northernmost point of the state of Wisconsin, and following the north and west boundary of said state down the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers to the place of beginning. At this time the population of the territory was mainly in the section east of the Mississippi river, and the settlers were almost entirely engaged in lumbering. The territorial government was declared fully organized, June 1, 1849, by Hon. Alexander Ramsey, who had been appointed first territorial governor. The year 1848 was noted as the year of excitement from the discovery of gold in California, and the eyes of many thousands of people throughout the east were turned westward, where opportunities were opening for the growth of new states. Although at the organization of the territory there was scarcely a thousand people, within a year the census of 1850 gave to the territory a population of 6,077. Of this number, however, 1,134 residents were credited to the northernmost part of the territory on the Red River of the North, many of these being half-breeds, and the early pioneers engaged in the fur trade, brought there through the influence of the Hudson Bay Company.

The first territorial election was held on August 1, 1849.

The first session of the territorial Legislature commenced in St. Paul, September 3, 1849, during which counties were established and a code of laws enacted. The second session was commenced in January, 1851, at which time the capitol was located at St. Paul, the university at St. Anthony, and the state prison at Stillwater.

THE COUNCIL AT TRAVERSE DES SIOUX.

In 1851 three treaties were made with the Sioux and with the Ojibway bands of Indians, whereby large tracts of lands were relinquished to the United States. In view of the great extent of country desired, and the importance of the transaction, and the long continued friendship of the Dakota nation, President Fillmore departed from the usual mode of appointing commissioners, and deputed the Hon. Luke Lea, the commissioner of Indian affairs, and Gov. Alexander Ramsey to meet the representatives of the Dakotas, and to conclude with them a treaty for such lands as they might be willing to sell.

On the 27th of June, 1851, Commissioner Lea arrived in St. Paul on the steamboat "Excelsior," and on the 29th he, in company with Governor Ramsey, landed at Traverse des Sioux, where the great council was to be held and the treaty consummated with the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands.

of Sioux. Great delay in the proceedings was caused by the non-arrival of certain Sioux chiefs from the upper country, and it was not until the 18th of July that the council convened and the preliminaries to the treaty commenced. During this interval of about twenty days they all entertained themselves as best they could with races, dances, suppers, sham fights, and all sorts of fun.

On the 18th of July, all the chiefs having arrived, proclamation was made, and being convened in grand council and the pipe of peace having been passed around, the council was opened by an address from Governor Ramsey. On the 23rd of July the treaty was concluded and signed by the chiefs, by which they ceded to the United States all the lands claimed by these bands east of the Sioux Wood (or Bois des Sioux), and Big Sioux rivers and Lake Traverse to the Mississippi, excepting a reservation one hundred miles long by twenty miles wide, on the upper part of the Minnesota river. By this treaty the Indians were to remove within two years to the reservation; to receive from the government, after removal \$275,000, to enable them to settle up their affairs and to become established in their new home; and \$30,000 was to be expended in breaking land, erecting mills and establishing a manual training school. They were also to receive for fifty years from that time, an annuity of \$68,000, payable as follows: Cash, \$40,000; civilization fund, \$12,000; goods and provisions, \$10,000; education fund, \$6,000.

About a week later, on the 29th of July, Governor Ramsey and Commissioner Lea met the chiefs and leading men of the Med-ay-wakanton and Wah-pay-koo-tay bands of Sioux at a grand council at Mendota, to negotiate another treaty for the sale of other lands, which was concluded on the 5th of August, being signed by sixty-four chiefs, head men and warriors. In the treaty these bands of Indians ceded and relinquished all their lands in territory of Minnesota and state of Iowa, and in consideration thereof the United States was to reserve for them a tract of the average width of ten miles on either side of the Minnesota river, and bounded on the west by the Tchay-tam-bay and Yellow Medicine rivers, on the east by the Little Rock river, and a line running due south from the mouth to the Waraju river; and to pay them the following sums of money: For settling debts and aid in removal, \$220,000; for erection of buildings and opening farms, \$30,000; civilization fund, to be paid annually, \$12,000; educational fund, paid annually, \$6,000; goods and provisions, annually, \$10,000; cash, \$30,000. The annuities were to continue for fifty years from the date of the treaty.

These two treaties of 1851 at Traverse des Sioux and Mendota acquired

for white settlement nearly 24,000,000 acres of the finest lands in the world. The cessions were mostly in Minnesota, but included about an eighth part, or nearly 3,000,000 acres, in the state of Iowa, between the line of the old "neutral ground" and the northern and western boundaries of the state. That tract of country, and generally all lands in Iowa, claimed by the Sioux, were therefore embraced in the articles of cession of both treaties.

The Senate of the United States, on the 23rd of June, 1852, ratified the treaties, with amendments to each, which amendments were subsequently accepted by the Indians, and on the 24th of February, 1853, President Millard Fillmore issued his proclamation accepting, ratifying and confirming each of the said treaties as amended. The total lands in the present state of Minnesota relinquished to the government by these treaties exceeded 19,000,000 acres; and they also ceded about 1,750,000 acres in South Dakota, besides the tract described in Iowa.

The third treaty of 1851 was effected by Governor Ramsey with the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Ojibways at Pembina, by which they ceded certain territory, sixty-five miles in width by one hundred and fifty miles in length, intersected by the Red River of the North. This treaty was not ratified by the government.

After the ratification of the treaties with the Sioux, a great wave of immigration set in from all the eastern states, and an era of speculation started which probably has never been excelled in any portion of the west. A census, taken in 1857, gave a population of 150,037.

INDIAN HUNTERS CAUSE TROUBLE.

Notwithstanding there was an abundant supply of good land outside of the limits of the land ceded under these treaties, the adventurous spirit of the pioneers led many of them to settle on the extreme limits of the grant, and in immediate proximity to the Indian settlements. In the southwestern portion of the state, particularly, settlements were made close to the boundary line of Iowa and north and west of Spirit lake. Some were in Iowa and some were in Minnesota, and all were within the jurisdiction of the Indian agent resident in the territory of Minnesota. Although the Indians were living on the reservation lands west of these settlements, in their hunting expeditions they were accustomed to return to the ceded lands. In a general way the Indians were civil, and committed only petty depredations; but their visits were at times annoying. Among the Indians there was a single band, under the leadership of Ink-pa-du-ta, or the Scar-

let Point, of about fifteen lodges, which had been for many years an independent band and of a thieving, vagabondish character (really outlaws from the Sioux nation, and not represented in the treaties of 1851), who had taken possession of a strip of land running on both sides of the boundary lines of Iowa and Minnesota, and extending to the Missouri river. In March, 1857, a few of these Indians were hunting in the neighborhood of Rock river and one of them was bitten by a dog belonging to a white man. The dog was killed by the Indian, and in return the owner of the dog made an assault upon the Indian, and afterward gathered his neighbors, and they went to the Indian camp and disarmed them. The arms were afterward returned to them, and the party moved northeast, arriving at the Spirit Lake settlement about the 6th of March, where they massacred the men and took four women into captivity. Other settlements were attacked, and altogether forty-two settlers were killed. Two of the women were afterward rescued through the efforts of Hon. Charles E. Flandreau, then the Indian agent. An effort was made to punish this band of savages, but all escaped except the eldest son of Ink-pa-du-ta, who had ventured into the camp of other Sioux, near the agency, and was killed in an attempt to capture him.

TOWN-SITE SPECULATION.

In 1855 and 1856 town-site speculation became the absorbing thought, and when the panic of 1857 set in, Minnesota was soon in a deplorable condition. The demand for an extensive railroad system and a state government had originated in the flush times of 1856 and 1857, and on February 26, 1857, Congress passed an act authorizing a constitutional convention, and granting a large amount of lands in aid of public schools. On March 3, 1857, an act of Congress was approved making a large grant of lands in aid of railroads.

The election of members of the Constitutional Convention was held on June 1, 1857, and the result was an almost equal division representing the Democratic and Republican parties. So close was this division, and there being some contested seats, when the convention assembled, on July 13, two distinct organizations were made, each proceeding to frame a Constitution, but finally, by conference committees, they united in one document, which was submitted to a vote of the people on October 13, and was adopted almost unanimously. By this Constitution the boundaries of the state were changed on the west, making the Red River of the North the line, up the Bois des Sioux, and thence extending along that river and

through Lake Traverse and Big Stone lake, and by a direct south line to the north boundary of Iowa.

This Constitution provided for an election of state officers at the same time of voting upon the adoption of the Constitution, resulting, by a close vote, in the election of the Democratic nominees. The first state Legislature was convened on the 2nd of December, 1857, and continued in session until March 25, 1858, when a recess was taken until after the state should be admitted. Some doubts were raised as to the legality of the acts of the Legislature previous to admission by Congress. The act of admission was passed and approved, May 11, 1858. The Legislature again assembled in June, and finally adjourned, August 12, 1858. During this prolonged session the embryo state was without funds, and a loan of \$250,000 was authorized; but as the acts of the Legislature before admission were somewhat irregular, the loan could not be readily negotiated. To tide over the difficulty state warrants were issued in the form of bank notes, and passed current, with more or less discount, until the summer of 1858, when they were redeemed from the proceeds of the loan consummated after the admission of the state.

RAILROAD BONDS ISSUED.

The first Legislature worked diligently in what they considered the best interest of the state, and as the grant of lands by the United States in aid of railroads within the state had to be turned over to companies, a large part of the session was devoted to railroad legislation. The scheme of further aid to companies who might be willing to undertake the building of railroads was originated, and was commonly denominated the "Five Million Loan Bill," contemplating the loan of the credit of the state, to that amount, in such sums as would be paid upon the grading and final completion of certain miles of road. On a submission of this law to the people it was adopted by a large majority. The opposition at the time of the vote upon this measure was very bitter, and continued after bonds were being issued, and with the dissatisfaction arising from the small amount of work completed and the large amount of bonds issued, threatenings of repudiation advocated by leading men in the state caused a distrust in financial circles and a final collapse of the whole scheme, with the foreclosure of the mortgages taken by the state upon the railroad lands and franchises, and the abandonment of all railroad construction for the time being. The total amount of bonds issued under this provision of the constitution was \$2,375,000. By the foreclosure proceedings the state acquired about 250 miles of

graded road, the franchises of the companies and the lands, amounting to five million of acres, as indemnity for this issue of bonds. Notwithstanding the state had acquired all the rights, including the improvements of the railroad companies, the feeling against any settlement of the bonds was strong enough to secure an amendment to the constitution in 1860, prohibiting the passage of any law levying a tax or making other provision for the payment of the principal or interest of these bonds without having the same submitted to a vote of the people and adopted.

The two years following the crash of 1857 were replete with financial disaster and a shrinkage of inflated values in town-sites; but the country was filling up with farmers, and the rich soil of the state was giving abundant harvests. The political contest of 1859 was bitter, and resulted in the Republican party carrying the state, both for state officers and the Legislature.

The census of 1860 gave the state a population of 172,023. During this year there was great hope of a largely increased immigration into the county; but the political situation in the Union, starting with the opening of the presidential campaign of that year, soon indicated a disturbing element throughout the country, and distrust and depression were manifest on all sides which was not allayed by the result of the presidential election. The war period, commencing with the time of the President's proclamation in April, 1861, to the final close of the rebellion in 1865, did not permit any material growth in the state. About twenty-two thousand of her able-bodied citizens volunteered and were enlisted in the Union army.

UNREST AMONG THE INDIANS.

The Indian reservation set apart by the treaties of 1851, a tract twenty miles wide on the upper part of the Minnesota river, embracing some of the finest lands in the state, was becoming a barrier to settlements in the upper Minnesota valley. Settlers had taken lands close up to the reservation, and there was considerable complaint that Indians were coming off the reservation and committing petty depredations, and the Indians had more or less complaints to make regarding the extortions practiced by the post traders. The encroachments of the whites were viewed with suspicion by the Indians, and sooner or later, from these causes alone, a conflict would probably have occurred. The War of the Rebellion, calling away so many of the able-bodied men of the state, left the frontier settlements almost

defenseless, and doubtless caused the younger portion of the tribes to become more offensive to the settlers and more exacting in their demands.

The lands embraced within the reservation under the treaties of 1851 were in the very heart of Minnesota, and, considering the forests and streams, were the choicest of farming lands. The settlers on the border were anxiously coveting this "Garden of Eden." A sentiment was created throughout the state that the Indians should abandon the tribal relations and become civilized. To this end the head men of the Dakota nation were induced, in 1858, to go to Washington, under the charge of Hon. Joseph R. Brown, in whom they had great confidence, for the purpose of negotiating for the whole or a part of this reservation. Treaties were signed ceding the ten-mile strip on the north side of the river, upon the payment of \$140,000, and the government provided that every head of a family or single person over the age of twenty-one adopting a civilized life should secure in fee eighty acres of land. From some cause the payments of \$140,000 were never made, and there was great dissatisfaction on account of this treaty, among those of the tribes who were adverse to accepting the condition of civilization; and from the fact that there was no money divided among them on account of this relinquishment a bitter dissension arose between the older chiefs and the younger members, the latter claiming that they had been robbed either by the chiefs or by the government, and they proposed to have the settlement, peaceful or otherwise.

This internal strife was augmented from year to year by the withdrawal of families who were willing to accept the civilization fund, the number in three years succeeding the treaty amounting to one hundred and sixty persons. They were, however, still annuity Indians, and claimed the right to be heard in the councils. The annuity Indians, all told, numbered about six thousand two hundred, and the annual cash payment to each person amounted to about fifteen dollars. The Indians were treated as wards of the United States. Two agencies were established, around which were gathered storekeepers to sell the Indians goods in anticipation of the annuity payments; and, usually, the annual payment was simply a settlement of the claims of the traders, who took the risk of furnishing the goods in advance. That there was injustice practiced upon the Indians is doubtless true; probably not so great as the disaffected Indians imagined. There was enough, however, to make the time of the annual payment an anxious period, for fear of an outbreak. The failure of the government in its attempt to punish the Spirit Lake murderers had a tendency to create a feel-

ing among the leaders of the rebellious spirit that if they could only unite the whole body of Sioux in an uprising they could make a successful attack upon the settlers, and perhaps regain the lands formerly held by the Indians. The War of the Rebellion, starting in 1861, gave renewed energy to the discontent. The Indians were well aware of the reverses of the Union forces during the first year of the war. The calls for troops were taking the able-bodied men from the farms, and many of the half-breeds had volunteered for the army. All these conditions had a disquieting effect, and, added to this, in 1862 the June payment was not made; and as there was no satisfactory answer for the delay, the traders took advantage of the necessities of the Indians and insinuated that perhaps the government would go to pieces, and there would be no further payments. The missionaries endeavored to counteract these evil influences, and, with the aid of the civilized Indians succeeded in averting deliberate outbreak. The delay in payment of annuities, however, tended to keep up the discontent, particularly among the younger braves, who were the hunters. Their vagabond life brought them into the settlements, and in contact with the whites; and their worthless, lazy habits made them offensive to the families, as beggars of meals or money, or anything that took their fancy.

MASSACRE OF 1862.

These are, in brief, the circumstances which led up to the great massacre of 1862, which for a short time threatened the lives of all the settlers on the western boundary of the state. There was no concerted action for the massacre, and to some extent there is an uncertainty as to why the first murders were committed. Four young men or boys are believed to have commenced the massacre, in a spirit of bravado, making a threatening attack first upon a family, driving them from their home, and afterward following them to a neighbor's house, where, after an altercation with the families, they killed three men and two women. These occurrences took place on the 17th of August, in the township of Acton, twelve miles west of Litchfield. Realizing that if they remained in the vicinity punishment would soon overtake their murderous acts, they lost no time in going back to camp, relating what they had done, and asking protection. A hasty consultation was had between two of the chiefs; they realized that the murderers must be given up, or the annuities would be stopped, and a war of extermination would be inaugurated. They chose to stand by the murderers, and immediately following there was a general uprising of the entire

Sioux bands. So swift were their movements, before any effective resistance could be brought against them, that about eight hundred of the settlers, men, women and children were murdered within a few days. The prompt action of the state authorities, aided by the national government, resulted in the capture of about 2,000 of the belligerent Indians and the withdrawal of the remainder beyond the boundaries of the state, into the wilds of Dakota. Of the captured Indians, 303 were found guilty of murder and rape, and were condemned to death by a military court-martial. Of this number 265 were reprieved by President Lincoln, and the remainder, thirty-eight of the most prominent engaged in the massacre, were hung in Mankato on the 26th of December, 1862. The next year the general government authorized an expedition against the Indians who had escaped to the Dakota plains, because of their constant raids in small squads on the frontiers of the state for the purpose of horse-stealing and marauding upon adventurous settlers who might risk going back to their abandoned farms. After two decisive encounters, the Indians retreated beyond the Missouri river, and in 1864 another expedition was sent forward and a final settlement of the Sioux outbreak was accomplished, by a confiscation and surrender of the ponies and arms of most of the bands hostile to the government.

The several tribes of Sioux Indians were engaged in this massacre, and were the representatives of the tribes that had made the cession of lands in 1851, under the first and second treaties of that year. Under these treaties the government had set aside trust funds of \$2,520,000, from which there was paid annually the sum of \$120,000. Settlers who had lost property urged their claims for indemnity, and Congress promptly established a commission to receive all claims and investigate the facts. The commission was duly organized and established headquarters in the city of St. Paul, and carefully examined all the claims presented. The total number filed was 2,940, with damages amounting to \$2,458,795 16. The commission allowed 2,635 claims, and cut down the damages to \$1,379,374. By act of Congress these claims were paid, and the annuities and all further payments to the tribes were stopped. The state was also reimbursed for extraordinary expenses incurred during the period of insurrection.

On the 2nd of October, 1863, a treaty was concluded at the old crossing of Red Lake river, about twelve miles east of the present city of Crookston by Alexander Ramsey and Ashley C. Merrill, and the chief and head men of the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Ojibway Indians, for the cession of a large tract of country, being the ~~unoccupied~~ ^{unoccupied} ~~land~~ in one of the treaties of 1851, but not ratified at that time, of which the

boundaries are as follow: Commencing at the intersection of the national boundary with the Lake of the Woods; thence in a southwest direction to the head of Thief river; thence following that stream to its mouth; thence southeasterly in a direct line toward the head of Wild Rice river; and thence following the boundary of the Pillager cession of 1855 to the mouth of said river; thence up the channel of the Red river to the mouth of the Cheyenne; thence up said river to Stump lake, near the eastern extremity of Devil's lake; thence north to the international boundary; and thence east on said boundary to the place of beginning. It embraced all of the Red River valley in Minnesota and Dakota, except a small portion previously ceded, and was estimated to contain 11,000,000 acres. This treaty was ratified by the Senate, with amendments, March 1, 1864. The Indians, on the 12th of April, 1864, assented to the amendments, and President Lincoln, by his proclamation of the 5th of May, 1864, confirmed the treaty.

A PERIOD OF RAPID DEVELOPMENT.

The close of the Civil War in the spring of 1865, and the return of the soldiers, and the assurance of no further depredations from the Sioux Indians, started a new era of prosperity and rapid growth. The Legislature, in the meantime, had granted charters on the foreclosed roadbeds and lands to new railroad companies, and the construction of roads was furnishing abundant labor to all who were coming to the state. The population at this time was 250,000, and in 1870 the population had increased to 439,706, nearly doubling in five years. The railroad companies had within the same period constructed nearly 1,000 miles of railroad, and continued their building with even greater vigor until the financial crisis of 1873 brought all public enterprises again to a stand, and produced stagnation in all the growing towns. The farmers had been active in developing the country, and were adding largely to the productions of the state when the grasshopper raids, for the time being, destroyed the growing crops, and caused great financial distress for two or three years.

The census of 1875 gave the state a population of 597,407, still showing a fair increase, but small in comparison with the five years following the close of the rebellion. By 1878 the state had fairly recovered from the financial crash of 1873, but speculation has at no time since 1878 been so reckless as during the two periods ending in 1857 and 1873.

Along with the prosperity of the state, caused so largely by the rapid railroad building, the state pride began to assert itself with more force,

and the prominent citizens continued to urge an adjustment of the dishonored railroad bonds. In 1877 a proposition setting aside the proceeds of 500,000 acres for internal improvement lands in settlement was by act of the Legislature submitted to a vote at a special election called for the 12th of June, and was voted down by the decisive vote of 59,176 against to 17,324 votes for, the proposition. This vote was largely owing to the fact that the state at that time had almost an entire new population that had come into the state long after the bonds were issued and had no definite knowledge of the history of the original indebtedness.

In 1881 the Legislature enacted a law providing for the adjustment of these bonds and designating the judges of the supreme court as a commission to make the settlement. The constitutionality of this law was questioned, a writ of injunction was served, and the final determination of the supreme bench was that the law was unconstitutional, as also the amendment of 1860, prohibiting any settlement without a vote of the people. This latter act had previously been determined unconstitutional by the supreme court of the United States. An extra session of the Legislature was called in October of the same year, when the final adjustment was authorized by act of the Legislature, on a basis of fifty per cent. of the amount nominally due, and, after a careful examination of all the claims presented, the bond question was forever set at rest by the issue of adjustment bonds, to the amount of \$1,282,000, to parties entitled to receive them. For the payment of these bonds the proposition of setting aside the proceeds of the 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands was again submitted to the general election in 1881, and by a vote of 82,435 votes in favor, and 24,526 votes against, the action of the Legislature was ratified and the stigma of repudiation removed, which had been fastened upon the state by the popular vote of 1877.

In 1880 the national census gave the state a population of 780,773, and the state census of 1885 swelled these figures to 1,117,708, indicating the extraordinary growth of forty-three per cent.; but an examination of the figures shows that the growth was mainly confined to the cities, being nearly eighty per cent. of increase, while in the farming community and small towns the percentage of increase was only twenty per cent.

During the ten years between 1880 and 1890 there was a period of great activity in the railroad building, and 2,310 miles of road were put in operation. This alone gave great energy to the business of the state, and caused a large increase in the population of the cities, and gradually culminated in a most extravagant real estate boom, and an era of the wildest

speculation. In the country the growth was normal over the entire state, although large numbers of farmers in the southern half of the state were attracted to the plains of Dakota, where great activity was being developed by the pushing of railroads into different sections of the territory.

DIVERSIFIED FARMING INTERESTS.

The settlement of the Dakotas and the consequent breaking up of the virgin land, after the year 1885, almost doubled the wheat yield of the north-western states, so that the farmers of Minnesota were soon confronted with the question whether wheat should continue to be their leading staple. In the southern part of the state the wheat return was not enough per acre to yield any profit to the farmer at the reduced prices; and gradually methods have changed, so that the leading agricultural industries now include dairying, stock raising, and general diversified farming. It seems probable that Minnesota will hold her place as the greatest wheat-producing state, and will also earn a greater reputation as the best all-round farming state in the Union.

The national census of 1890 gave the state a population of 1,301,826, an increase of 184,028 in five years, of which amount about 70,000 increase went to the cities and 114,000 to the country districts, showing eighteen per cent. increase in the cities and fifteen per cent. increase in the country. The state census of 1895 showed an increase of 272,793, or 21.95 per cent., in the preceding five years, giving a total population of 1,574,619.

According to the census of 1910 the population of Minnesota was 2,075,708, showing an increase of 17.8 per cent. during the preceding decade. The population of the five largest cities was as follow: Minneapolis, 301,408; St. Paul, 214,744; Duluth, 78,466; Winona, 18,583; and Stillwater, 10,198.

Minnesota was the first state of the Union to respond to the call of the President for volunteers at the beginning of the war with Spain, in April, 1898. Three regiments, designated as the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Regiments of Minnesota Volunteers, were mobilized at St. Paul, April 29, and were mustered into the United State service on May 7 and 8. The Fifteenth Regiment was mustered into service on July 18. In total this state furnished 5,315 officers and enlisted men for the volunteer army. At the close of the war the Twelfth and Fourteenth Regiments returned to Minnesota, and were mustered out of service in November. The Fifteenth Regiment continued in service until March 27, 1899; and the Thirteenth

Regiment, after more than a year of service in the Philippine Islands, was mustered out on October 3, 1899.

NAME.

Minnesota derives its name from the river which was named "Minisota" by the Dakotas, pronounced "Min-nee-sotah," applied to the stream, in its natural state in the summer season, after the waters were cleared from the roiling caused by the spring floods. Mini, water; sotah, sky-colored. Apparently to secure the correct pronunciation in English letters, the convention called at Stillwater, in 1848, for the purpose of procuring a territorial organization, instructed their delegates to see that the name of the territory should be written Min-ne-sota.

GEOGRAPHY.

Geographically, Minnesota occupies the exact center of the continent of North America, midway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and also midway between Hudson bay and the Gulf of Mexico. This state is bounded on the south by Iowa, on the west by South and North Dakota, on the north by Manitoba and Ontario, and on the east by Wisconsin. It extends from latitude 43 degrees 30 minutes, to 49 degrees 24 minutes, and from 89 degrees 29 minutes, to 97 degrees 15 minutes, west longitude. From its southern boundary to the northern is about 400 miles, and from its most eastern to the extreme western point about 354 miles.

AREA.

Minnesota is, in area, the tenth state of the Union. It contains 84,287 square miles, or about 53,943,379 acres, of which 3,608,012 acres are water. In altitude it appears to be one of the highest portions of the continent, as the headwaters of three great river systems are found in its limits, those of streams flowing northward to Hudson bay, eastward to the Atlantic ocean, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico.

About half of this surface, on the south and west, consists of rolling prairie, interspersed with frequent groves, oak openings and belts of hard-wood timber, watered by numberless lakes and streams, and covered with a warm, dark soil of great fertility. The rest, embracing the elevated district immediately west and north of Lake Superior, consists mainly of rich min-

eral ranges and of the pine forests which clothe the headwaters of the Mississippi, affording extensive supplies of lumber. There is but a very small percentage of broken, rocky or worthless land in the state. Nearly all is arable.

RIVERS.

Numerous rivers and watercourses give the state excellent drainage. But few states are so well watered as Minnesota. Its navigable rivers are the Mississippi, the Minnesota, the St. Croix, the St. Louis, the Red River of the North, and the Red Lake river, all of which, near their sources, have extensive water powers; while a number of smaller streams such as Rum river and Snake river, both valuable for lumbering, the Cannon and Zumbro rivers, the Vermilion, Crow, Blue Earth, Des Moines, Cottonwood, Chipewewa, LeSueur, Root, Elk and Sauk rivers, also furnish fine water powers. These with their tributaries and a host of lesser streams penetrate every portion of the state. Some of the water powers furnished by these streams are among the finest in America, and many of them have been utilized for manufacturing purposes.

LAKES.

The lakes of Minnesota are more numerous and varied in form than in any other state in the Union. Bordering on the northeast corner of the state for one hundred and fifty miles, the waters of the great Lake Superior wash its shores. Within the state there are about ten thousand lakes, the largest of which is Red lake, in the central northern part of the state, bordering partly by dense pine forests, with its overflow through Red Lake river, by a devious course, into the Red River of the North. On the same northern slope, in St. Louis county, is the beautiful Vermilion lake, with its tributaries, at the edge of the great Vermilion iron range, and flowing into Rainy lake, on the northern boundary, and then through Rainy Lake river into the Lake of the Woods, and thence into Lake Winnipeg, and finally into Hudson bay. On the southern slope of the state is Itasca lake, the source of the Mississippi, with Cass lake, Lake Winnibigoshish, Leech lake, and other innumerable lakes, all adding volume to the water of the Mississippi, eventually flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. Then there is Mille Lacs, the source of Rum river, and the picturesque Lake Minnetonka. These are the largest lakes in the state. Of these, however, only Minnetonka, White Bear, Bald Eagle and Chisago lakes have so far been much utilized as summer resorts. The incomparable park region, traversed by the Great Northern

and Northern Pacific railroads, is the paradise of summer idlers, of hunters and fishermen; but it is not in this portion alone that all the beautiful lakes are found. The northeastern and the southwestern sections each have numerous lakes to attract the summer visitor.

There is an undoubted modification of the climate of the state, caused by these numerous bodies of water, giving a most delightful summer temperature.

Fine varieties of fish are abundant in all these lakes; and the state expends annually thousands of dollars, through a game and fish commission, to improve the varieties and to prevent their wanton destruction.

ELEVATION.

Surveys with leveling from the sea show that the shore of Lake Superior is the lowest land in the state, 602 feet above sea level. The waters of the northeastern part of the state south of the Mesabi iron range flow into Lake Superior, and are carried to the Atlantic ocean. The Mississippi river, having its chief source in Lake Itasca, at 1,466 feet elevation, runs in a southerly direction, leaving the state at 620 feet above sea level.

The Red River of the North, rising in the north, near Itasca lake, at a height of 1,600 feet above the ocean, after a circuitous route south and west to Breckenridge, in Wilkin county, and then flowing north along its great valley, leaves the state at an elevation of 750 feet. The average elevation of the state is given at about 1,275 feet. The highest elevation is the Misquah hills, in Cook county, 2,230 feet.

CLIMATE.

The elevation of Minnesota above the sea, its fine drainage, and the dryness of the atmosphere give it a climate of unusual salubrity and pleasantness. It has an annual mean temperature of 44 degrees, while its mean summer temperature is 70 degrees, the same as that of middle Illinois and Ohio, southern Pennsylvania, etc. The excessive heats of summer often felt in other states are here tempered by the cooling breezes. Its high latitude gives it correspondingly longer days in summer than states further south, and during the growing season there are two and one-half hours more sunshine than in the latitude of Cincinnati. This, taken in connection with the abundant rainfall of early summer, accounts for the rapid and vigorous

growth of crops in Minnesota, and their early maturity. The cool breezes and cool nights in summer prevent the debilitating effects of heat often felt in low latitudes. The winter climate is one of the attractive features of the state. Its uniformity, and prevailing freedom from thaws and excessive spells of cold, severe weather or heavy snow storms, and its dryness, together with the bright sunshine and electrical condition of the air, all tend to enhance the personal comfort of the resident, and make outdoor life and labor a pleasure.

These features tend to make this climate the healthiest in the Union. It gives life and briskness to those performing manual labor, enabling them to do more work than in a damper or duller climate.

CHRONOLOGICAL.

In the following list some of the more important events in the state, from the earliest explorations to the present time, are set forth in chronological order:

- 1635. Jean Nicollet, an explorer from France, who had wintered in the neighborhood of Green Bay, brought to Montreal the first mention of the aborigines of Minnesota.
- 1659-60. Grosseilliers and Radisson wintered among the Sioux of the Mille Lacs region, Minnesota, being its first white explorers. In a previous expedition, four years earlier, they are thought to have come to Prairie Island, west of the main channel of the Mississippi, between Red Wing and Hastings.
- 1661. Father Rene Menard left Kewennaw, on Lake Superior, to visit the Hurons, then in northern Wisconsin, and was lost near the sources of the Black and Chippewa rivers. His breviary and cassock were said to have been found among the Sioux.
- 1679. July 2, Daniel Greyselon Du Lhut (Duluth) held a council with the Sioux at their principal settlement on the shore of Mille Lacs. Du Lhut, in June, 1680, by way of the St. Croix river, reached the Mississippi and met Hennepin.
- 1680. Louis Hennepin, after captivity in the village of Mille Lacs Sioux, first saw the Falls of St. Anthony.
- 1689. May 8, Nicholas Perrot, at his Ft., St. Antoine, on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Pepin, laid formal claim to the surrounding country for France. He built a fort also on the Minnesota shore of this lake, near its outlet.

1695. LeSueur built a fort or trading post on Isle Pelee, now called Prairie Island, above Lake Pepin.
1700. LeSueur established Ft. L'Huillier, on the Blue Earth river near the mouth of the LeSueur), and first supplied the Sioux with firearms.
1727. The French established a third fort on Lake Pepin, with Sieur de La Perriere as commander.
1728. Great flood in the Mississippi.
1763. By the treaty of Versailles, France ceded Minnesota, east of the Mississippi, to England, and west of it to Spain.
1766. Capt. Jonathan Carver visited St. Anthony falls and Minnesota river. He claimed to have made a treaty with the Indians the following spring, in a cave afterward called "Carver's Cave," within the present limits of St. Paul, at which he said they ceded to him an immense tract of land, long known as "Carver's Claim," but never recognized by the government.
1796. Laws of the Ordinance of 1787 extended over the Northwest territory, including the northeastern third of Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river.
- 1798-99. The Northwestern Fur Company established itself in Minnesota.
1800. May 7, that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi became a part of Indiana by the division of Ohio.
1803. April 30, that part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi, for the preceding forty years to possession of Spain as a part of Louisiana, was ceded to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte, who had just obtained it from Spain.
- 1803-04. William Morrison, the first known white man to discover the source of the Mississippi river, visited Elk lake and explored the streams entering into the lake forming the head of the river.
1805. Lieut. Z. M. Pike visited Minnesota to establish government relations there, and obtained the Ft. Snelling reservation from the Dakotas.
1812. The Dakotas, Ojibways and Winnebagoes, under the lead of hostile traders, joined the British during the war. Red river colony established by Lord Selkirk.
1819. Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river, became a part of Crawford county, Michigan. Ft. Snelling established, and a post at Mendota occupied by troops, under command of Col.

- Leavenworth. Maj. L. Taliaferro appointed Indian agent, arriving on April 19.
1820. Corner stone of Ft. Snelling laid on September 10. Governor Cass visits Minnesota and makes a treaty of peace between the Sioux and Ojibways at Ft. Snelling. Col. Josiah Snelling appointed to the command of the latter post.
1823. The first steamboat arrived at Mendota, May 10, Major Taliaferro and Beltrami being passengers. Maj. Stephen H. Long explored Minnesota river, the Red river valley, and the northern frontier. Beltrami explored sources of the Mississippi.
1826. Great flood on the Red river; a part of the colony driven to Minnesota, settling near Ft. Snelling.
1832. Schoolcraft explored sources of Mississippi river, and named Lake Itasca (formerly called Elk lake).
1833. First mission established at Leech lake by Rev. W. T. Boutwell.
1834. The portion of Minnesota west of the Mississippi attached to Michigan. Gen. H. H. Sibley settled at Mendota.
1835. Catlin and Featherstonhaugh visited Minnesota.
1836. The territory of Wisconsin organized, embracing the part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi, the part on the west being attached to Iowa. Nicollet visited Minnesota.
1837. Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin, made a treaty at Ft. Snelling with the Ojibways, by which the latter ceded all their pine lands on the St. Croix and its tributaries; a treaty was also effected at Washington with a deputation of Dakotas for their lands east of the Mississippi. These treaties led the way to the first actual settlements within the area of Minnesota.
1838. The treaty ratified by Congress. Franklin Steele makes a claim at St. Anthony falls. Pierre Parrant makes a claim and builds a shanty on the present site of St. Paul.
1839. St. Croix county established.
1843. Stillwater settled.
1846. August 6, the Wisconsin enabling act.
1847. The Wisconsin Constitutional Convention meets. The town of St. Paul surveyed, platted and recorded in St. Croix county register of deeds' office. First improvement of the water power at the Falls of St. Anthony.
1848. May 20, Wisconsin admitted, leaving the area of Minnesota without a government. August 26, the "Stillwater Convention" held,

taking measures for a separate territorial organization, and asking that the new territory be named Minnesota. October 30, H. H. Sibley elected delegate to Congress.

- 1849. January 15, H. H. Sibley admitted to a seat. March 3, the bill organizing Minnesota passed. March 19, its territorial officers appointed. June 1, Governor Ramsey declared, by proclamation, the territory organized. September 3, the first territorial Legislature assembled.
- 1850. Great flood this year; highest water ever known. Minnesota river first navigated by steamboats. Census shows 6,077 inhabitants.
- 1851. Location of the capitol, university and penitentiary; another flood. July 23, treaty of Traverse des Sioux completed and August 5 the treaty of Mendota, opening the territory west of the Mississippi to settlers.
- 1852. June 23, the treaties ratified by the United States Senate.
- 1853. Pierce's administration. W. A. Gorman appointed governor. The capitol building completed.
- 1854. Celebration of the opening of the Rock Island railroad, the first road to the Mississippi river, by a mammoth excursion, reaching St. Paul, June 8. Large immigration this season and the three succeeding ones, and the real estate mania commences.
- 1857. Enabling act passes Congress, February 26. Gov. Samuel Medary (appointed by Buchanan), arrives on April 22. Legislature passes a bill to remove the capital to St. Peter, but it fails to accomplish the object. Ink-pa-du-to massacre, April. Land grant passes Congress. April 27, extra session of the Legislature to apportion land grant. July 13, Constitutional Convention assembles. Real estate speculation reaches its height, and is checked by the financial panic, August 27. Great revulsions and hard times. Census shows 150,037 population. October 13, Constitution adopted and state officers elected.
- 1858. State loan of \$250,000 negotiated. Five million loan bill passed by the Legislature, March 9; ratified by vote of the people, April 15. Great stringency in money market. State admitted, May 11. State officers sworn in, May 24.
- 1859. Hard times continue to intensify. "Wright County War." "Glencoe" and "Owatonna" money issued. Work on the land grant road ceases. Collapse of the five million scheme. Post

export of grain this fall. Hard political struggle; the Republicans triumph.

- 1860. Another warm political canvass. Federal census, 172,023.
- 1861. April 15, President proclamation for troops received; the first regiment recruits at once; June 22, it embarks at Ft. Snelling for the seat of war.
- 1862. Call for 600,000 men. August 17, massacre at Acton; August 18, outbreak at Lower Sioux Agency, eight miles east of Redwood Falls; 19th, New Ulm attacked; 20th, Fort Ridgely attacked; 25th, second attack on New Ulm; 30th, Fort Abercrombie besieged; September 2d, the bloody attack at Birch Coulee. September 19, first railroad in Minnesota in operation, between St. Paul and Minneapolis. September 23, battle of Wood Lake; 26th, captives surrendered at Camp Release; military commission tries 321 Indians for murder, rape, etc.; 303 condemned to die; December 26, 38 hung at Nankato.
- 1863. General Sibley's expedition to the Missouri river; July 3, Little Crow killed; July 24, battle of Big Mound; July 26, battle of Dead Buffalo Lake; July 28, battle of Stony Lake.
- 1864. Large levies for troops. Expedition to Missouri river, under Sully. Inflation of money market. Occasional Indian raids.
- 1865. Peace returns. Minnesota regiments return and are disbanded. In all 22,016 troops furnished by the state. Census shows 250,099 inhabitants.
- 1866-72. Rapid railroad building everywhere; immigration heavy; "good times" prevail, and the real estate inflated.
- 1873. January 7, 8 and 9, polar wave sweeps over the state; seventy persons perish. September, the Jay Cook failure creates another panic. Grasshopper raid begins and continues five seasons.
- 1876. September 7, attack on bank at Northfield by a gang of armed outlaws from Missouri; three of the latter killed and three captured.
- 1877. Biennial session amendment adopted.
- 1878. May 2, three flouring-mills at Minneapolis explode; eighteen lives lost.
- 1880. November 15, portion of the hospital for the insane at St. Peter destroyed by fire; eighteen inmates burned to death, seven

died subsequently of injuries and fright, and six missing; total loss, \$150,000.

- 1881. March 1, the state capitol destroyed by fire.
- 1884. January 25, state prison partially burned.
- 1886. April 14, a tornado strikes the cities of St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids, demolishing scores of buildings and killing about seventy people.
- 1887. Important legislation regarding the liquor traffic, common carriers, and elections.
- 1889. The Legislature enacts the Australian system of voting in cities of 10,000 and over. The first electric street railway started in the state at Stillwater.
- 1890. United States census shows a population of 1,301,826. July 13, an excursion steamboat returning from Lake City encampment foundered on Lake Pepin, and 100 people drowned. July 13, tornado swept across Lake Gervias, in Ramsey county, demolishing several buildings and killing six people.
- 1891. June 15, a series of tornadoes started in Jackson county, near the town of Jackson, traversing Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, Mower and Fillmore counties, on a line nearly parallel with, but from five to fifteen miles north of, the Southern Minnesota division of the Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, doing a large amount of damage to farms and farm buildings, and causing the death to about fifty people along the track of the storm.
- 1892. June 7, Republican national convention held at Minneapolis. The Australian system of voting used at the November general election.
- 1893. The Legislature authorizes the appointment of a capitol commission to select a site for a new capitol, and providing a tax of two-tenths of a mill for ten years to pay for the site and the erection of a building. A great financial crisis causes the failure of several banks and many mercantile and manufacturing establishments in the larger cities of the state.
- 1894. September 1, forest fires start in the neighborhood of Hinckley, in Pine county, carrying death and destruction over nearly four hundred square miles of territory, destroying the towns of Hinckley and Sandstone, causing the death of 417 people, rendering homeless and destitute 2,200 men, women and children, and entailing a property loss of about \$1,000,000.

- 1895. A census of the state was taken during the month of June, and the total population of the state was found to be 1,574,619.
- 1896. The Red Lake Indian reservation was diminished to about a quarter part of its former area, and on May 15 a large tract of agricultural and timber lands formerly belonging to that reservation was opened for settlement.
- 1897. July 2, the monument at Gettysburg to the First Minnesota Regiment was dedicated.
- 1898. July 27, the corner stone of the new capitol was laid. Minnesota supplied four regiments for service in the Spanish-American War, being the first state, May 7, to respond to the president's call. October 5, the Pillager Indians attacked United States troops near Sugar Point, Leech lake.
- 1899. Semi-centennial of the territory and state celebrated by the Old Settlers' Association, June 1, and by the Historical Society, November 15.
- 1900. Population of Minnesota, shown by the national census, 1,751,394. Death of Senator C. K. Davis, November 27.
- 1901. In the Pan-American Exposition, at Buffalo, New York, the superior exhibits of wheat, flour, and dairy products of Minnesota caused her to be called "the Bread and Butter State."
- 1902. August 23, the fortieth anniversary of the Sioux War celebrated at New Ulm. Monuments and tablets erected there and at other places in the Minnesota valley.
- 1903. Tide of immigration into Minnesota, particularly in northern and western sections. April 22, death of Alexander Ramsey, first territorial governor, later governor of the state, United States senator, and secretary of war.
- 1904. Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Minnesota exhibits win many first prizes for flour, butter, fruits, iron ores, work of pupils in schools, etc.
- 1905. January 3, Legislature convenes in the new capitol. The population, according to the state census, June 1, was 1,979,912.
- 1906. September 3, live stock amphitheater on the state fair ground dedicated, with address by James J. Hill. Attendance at the fair on that day, 93,199; during the week, 295,000.
- 1907. Folwell Hall, the new main building for the College of Science, Literature and Arts, of the University of Minnesota, completed at cost of \$410,000 for the building and its equipment.

The total number of students of this University enrolled in all departments for the year was 4,145.

1908. The fiftieth anniversary of the admission of Minnesota to statehood was celebrated in connection with the state fair, its attendance during the week being 326,753.
1909. Death of Gov. John A. Johnson as the result of an operation, at Rochester, Minnesota, September 21, 1909. Lieut.-Gov. Adolph O. Eberhart sworn in as governor by Chief Justice Start, in the Supreme Court retiring room, at 11 o'clock the same day.
1910. Population of Minnesota, shown by the national census, 2,075,708. Death of State Treasurer Clarence C. Dinehart, June 8. E. S. Pettijohn appointed to succeed, June 11. Forest fires in northern Minnesota during the second and third week in October, results in death to about thirty people and the destruction of about \$20,000,000 of property. Spooner and Baudette wiped out.
1911. The Legislature ratified the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution for election of United States senators by popular vote. October 18, George E. Vincent was inaugurated president of the University of Minnesota.
1912. The Legislature in special session enacted a new primary election law and "corrupt practices" act. October 19, the statue of Governor Johnson on the capitol ground was unveiled.
1913. June 16-20, the American Medical Association held its sixty-fourth annual session in Minneapolis. United States postal savings bank and parcel post inaugurated in Minnesota. Practical reforms in state road laws enacted. Work begun on the new building of the St. Paul Public Library and Hill Reference Library. New postoffice and new railroad depot building in Minneapolis. November 5, the historic Carver's cave, all trace of which had been lost for forty years or more, was definitely located.
1914. March, Minneapolis made the reserve city in the Northwest for the system of regional national banks. Remarkable impetus to building operations in Minnesota cities. April 4, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, extensive lumber operator, died in his winter home at Pasadena, California. April 15, plans adopted for St. Paul's new terminals and union depot. May 9, a bronze statue of Gen. James Shields, tendered by the Loyal Legion and the Grand Army

of the Republic to the state of Minnesota, for a niche in the capitol. Unveiled in November; formally presented to the state by Commander Samuel Appleton, of the Loyal Legion; accepted by Governor A. O. Everhart; eloquent memorial address by Comrade and Companion John Ireland, archbishop. July 4-11, the National Educational Association held its annual convention in St. Paul. November, Winfield Scott Hammond, Democrat, elected governor of Minnesota, defeating William E. Lee, Republican nominee.

1915. January 2, session of the thirty-ninth Legislature opened at the state capitol; Hon. J. A. A. Burnquist, lieutenant-governor, president of the Senate; H. H. Flower, speaker of the House of Representatives. January 3, Winfield Scott Hammond inaugurated governor of Minnesota. February 12, birthday of Abraham Lincoln observed by Minnesota Commandery of the Loyal Legion by a banquet at the West hotel, Minneapolis. Oration by Bishop William A. Quayle, of the Methodist Episcopal church. February 19-20, forty-ninth annual convention of the Minnesota Editorial Association assembled at the St. Paul hotel, St. Paul, President H. C. Hotaling, presiding. December 30, death of Governor Hammond. December 31, Lieutenant-Governor Burnquist assumed the office of governor.
1916. February, discovery of discrepancies in the office of Walter J. Smith treasurer of the state, and his subsequent resignation.

CHAPTER II.

GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL FEATURES.

Situation and Area. Cottonwood is one of the second tier of counties north of the Iowa line, from which it is separated by Jackson county. From St. Paul and Minneapolis southwest to Windom is about one hundred and thirty miles. From La Crosse and the Mississippi river west to the eastern boundary of this county is one hundred and eighty miles. It is thirty miles long from east to west, and from its west line onward to the east line of Dakota, is fifty miles.

Cottonwood county has a length of five townships, and a width from north to south of four; except that on the northeast line, two of the townships that would be included in this county if it were a complete rectangle, belong to Brown county. With this reduction, Cottonwood county has eighteen townships, each six miles square. The main towns and villages of the county are situated in the southeast part, on the line of the St. Paul & Sioux City railroad. These are Windom, the county seat, situated in Great Bend township; Bingham Lake, in Lakeside, and Mountain Lake. Cottonwood county has an area of 650.30 square miles, or 416,250 acres, of which about eight thousand acres are covered with water.

Natural Drainage. The northwest part of Cottonwood county, including Germantown, Highwater, Ann, Westbrook, Storden, northwestern Amboy, and most of Rose Hill, is drained to the Cottonwood river, which flows through southern Redwood county, only a few miles farther north, and enters this county for a short distance in the northeast part of Germantown township. Its tributaries from Cottonwood county, in their order from west to east, are Dutch Charley's, Highwater, Dry and Mound creeks. The largest of these is Highwater creek, whose sources are several lakes in Rose Hill township, only three to seven miles from the Des Moines river. Its course in this county is east-northeast, about eighteen miles.

The little Cottonwood river, tributary to the Minnesota, a few miles below the Cottonwood river, rises nearly at the center of Cottonwood county, and its first ten miles, flowing northeast, are in Amboy and Delton townships. Its farther extent of about thirty miles eastward through Brown county is approximately parallel with the Big Cottonwood, and mainly three

to six miles distant to the south from that river. A tract in the east part of Cottonwood county, reaching west to its center, including Selma, Mountain Lake, Carson, the south half of Delton, and the northeast part of Dale, is drained by the headstreams of the Watonwan river, tributary to the Blue Earth, and, by that, to the Minnesota. The area in Cottonwood county, included within the basin of the Minnesota river, is approximately four hundred and fifty square miles.

The remainder of this county, including its southwestern townships, an area of about two hundred miles, is drained by the Des Moines river, which flows in a zigzag course, crossing South Brook, Springfield, diagonally, having a general southeast direction in South Brook and Great Bend, but making an offset in Springfield by running eight miles northeasterly. Harvey creek, the outlet of Lake Augusta in northeastern Amo township, entering the Des Moines at its big bend in the southwest corner of Dale township, is its largest tributary from the north in this county; from the south it receives the outlet of a string of lakes, which lie in the southwest part of Great Bend, and the outlet of Heron lake.

Among the lakes of Cottonwood county, in the reports of 1882, the following merited enumeration: Mountain lake, two miles long and from a half mile to one mile wide, two miles southeast from the depot and town of this name, has long since been drained and farmed; Bingham lake, one mile long from northeast to southwest, close north of the town to which its name is given; Clear, Cottonwood, Wolf, Summit and Glen lakes, one-third to two-thirds of a mile long, in the west and southwest portions of Lakeside township, one to three miles eastward from Windom, beautiful lakes of clear water, divided by irregular, hilly or rolling areas of prairie, and skirted by narrow woods; Fish lake, nearly two miles long from northeast to southwest, and one-fourth to two-thirds of a mile wide, crossed by the south line of Lakeside township, and having about half its area in Jackson county; the String lakes, reaching two and one-half miles from north to south, four miles west of Windom; the Three lakes, and Swan lake, each about one mile long, in Dale; Rat, Long, Eagle and Maiden lakes, from one-third to one mile long, in the south half of Carson township; Lake Augusta, about one and one-half miles long and a half mile wide, in Amo township; Hurricane lake, more than a mile long from north to south, lying in section 31, Highwater township, and section 6, Storden township; Double lake, of similar extent and trend, in sections 23 and 26, Westbrook township; Berry and Twin lakes, with others, varying from a quarter of a mile to about one and a half miles in length, trending to the south or southeast, in Rose Hill township; Oaks lake,

one and a half miles long from north to south, but narrow, lying in section 32, Rose Hill, and sections 5 and 8, Southbrook; and Talcott lake, in sections 19 and 30, South Brook, a mile long from north to south, with the Des Moines river flowing through its northern end.

Topography. In northern Cottonwood county a massive ridge of the red Potsdam quartzite extends twenty-five miles from west to east through Storden, Amboy, Delton and Selma, terminating in the west edge of Adrian, the northwest township of Watonwan county. This highland is mostly covered by a smooth surface of till, but has frequent exposures of the rock. Its altitude increases from one hundred feet at its east end to three hundred feet westward, above the broad, slightly undulating sheet of till, which, excepting a morainic tract, is stately, covers the region toward the north. The height reached at the top of this quartzite ridge, thirteen hundred to fifteen hundred feet above the sea, is a permanent rise of the land, which to the south and southwest holds nearly this average elevation, with a general ascent westward.

This ridge was probably considered by the early French explorers as the northeast border of the Coteau des Prairies, which name, meaning the Highland of the prairies, they gave to an elevated tract, extending about two hundred miles from north-northwest to south-southwest in eastern Dakota and southwestern Minnesota. Of this highland in Cottonwood county, Nicollet says: "Under the forty-fourth degree of latitude, the breadth of the coteau is about forty miles, and its mean elevation is here reduced to fourteen hundred and fifty feet above the sea. Within this space its two slopes are rather abrupt, crowned with verdure and scalloped by deep ravines thickly shaded with bushes, forming the beds of rivulets that water the adjacent plains." It is not continuously recognizable as a great topographic feature south of this quartzite ridge.

The Little Cottonwood river and the north branch of the north fork of the Watonwan river flow northeasterly through gaps in the range of quartzite a hundred feet or more below its crest, the former finding its passage at the middle of the north half of Delton township, and the latter about a mile west from the center of Selma township. Excepting at these points, the ridge is unbroken and uplifts a broad, smoothly-rounded top, covered with till, through which the quartzite has occasional outcrops. It extends in its course a little to the north of west twelve miles from the north part of section 25, Selma township; to the north part of sections 9, 8 and 7, Delton township, and thence a little to the south of west ten miles to Highwater creek at the middle of Storden township. In its east half, through Selma

and Delton, this ridge has a width that increases toward the west from a half mile to one or two miles, elevated fifty to one hundred feet above the average of the land for the next five or six miles to the south, and twice this height above the country which it overlooks northward to the horizon. Both slopes of the range have a gentle descent, that to the north occupying a width of one to two miles, and reaching from section 7, Delton, to the falls formed by this quartzite on the headstreams of Mound creek, in the southwest corner of Brown county, and in the northeast quarter of section 36, Germantown township. In the central and southwest part of Amboy township and the east half of Storden, this highland, besides slowly increasing in elevation westward, expands to a greater width, and forms an approximately level plateau of till, one to three miles wide, with outcrops of the quartzite only upon the slope which descend from it. The most southern exposures of this rock in Cottonwood county are in the west part of sections 6 and 7, Dale, and in section 12, Amo, on the western descent from the most southern part of this plateau, which here in northwestern Dale is seventy-five or one hundred feet above the remainder of this township and its Three lakes, and about one hundred and fifty feet above Lake Augusta on the west.

This area of Potsdam quartzite is the only part of Cottonwood county which has exposures of the bed-rocks, the remainder being moderately undulating or rolling and sometimes hilly glacial drift. The general slope, as already stated, rises from east to west, and at the west side of Amo and in Rose Hill, this drift attains as great an altitude as the quartzite range eight miles northeast in Amboy and Storden.

The townships of Westbrook, Ann, Highwater and Germantown, lying north of this height of land in Rose Hill, Amo and the ridge of quartzite, have mostly a smoothly rolling contour, with the crests of swells fifteen to thirty feet above the depressions. The creeks which drain this district northward to the Cottonwood river, flow in valleys that they have eroded twenty to forty feet below the average surface.

The valley of the Des Moines river in South Brook township, the most southwest township of Cottonwood county, is less distinct in its outlines, and its depth is less, than in any other part of its extent below Lake Shetek. South Brook has mostly a rolling contour of massive swells, variable in their forms, trends and extent, rising twenty to fifty feet above the Des Moines river, which flows among them in an irregular course, generally without any well-defined valley of bottomland and bluffs, but turned here and there by small undulations. In section 19 it passes through the north end of Talcott

lake, which lies in a shallow basin of the drift-sheet, covering nearly a square mile, but only five to eight feet deep.

In Springfield township, where the Des Moines flows northeast, at right angles to its course both above and below, it again occupies a definite valley, channeled fifty to seventy-five feet below the average height of the rolling surface on either side. At the northeast corner of this township is the great bend of the Des Moines. Here it enters a valley transverse to its course through the last eight miles, and is carried in it thence to the southeast. This valley has a nearly flat alluvial bottom-land, a third to a half of a mile wide, enclosed by bluffs fifty to sixty feet high. It continues two or three miles northerly from the great bend, with the same width and depth; and is less distinctly marked three or four miles further, along the upper part of Harvey creek to Lake Augusta. The excavations of this channel were probably effected by floods discharged from glacial melting, while the receding ice-sheet still covered the county farther east. In the central part of Great Bend township the river is bordered on the west by morainic knolls and small ridges of rocky till, which rise successively one above another to the top of the Blue mounds, one to one and a half miles distant, and in the vicinity of Windom the ascent from the river eastward has a similar contour.

Distances along the Des Moines river, measured in direct lines between its principal bends, are as follow: From its source to the foot of Lake Shetek (this portion being commonly called Beaver creek), twenty-four miles; to a point on the south line of Cottonwood county, two miles north to the north end of Heron lake, in Jackson township, forty-eight miles; to its great bend, fifty-six miles; to Windom, sixty-three miles; to the state line, ninety-one mile; and to its mouth at Keokuk, Iowa, about three hundred and eighty-five miles. Thus, a little less than one-fourth of its length lies in Minnesota.

Elevations, St. Paul & Sioux City railway, from profiles in office of T. P. Gere, former superintendent, St. Paul:

	Feet.
Mountain lake, depot -----	1,300
Bingham lake, depot -----	1,420
Summit, grade -----	1,437
Windom -----	1,353
Des Moines river, water-----	1,331
Bluff siding -----	1,425

The highest portions of Cottonwood county, about fifteen hundred feet above the sea, are in Rose Hill township, in western Anoka, and the plateau

upon the west part of the quartzite ridge in southeastern Storden and southwestern Amboy, and the tops of the Blue mounds, which are fourteen hundred and fifty to fifteen hundred and twenty-five feet above the sea. The lowest land of this county, nearly five hundred feet below these tracts, is where the Cottonwood river enters the northeast corner of Germantown township, at a height of about ten hundred and thirty feet above the sea. The elevation of the Little Cottonwood river where it leaves the county, is estimated to be eleven hundred and fifty feet; and of the most northern tributary to the Watonwan river, at the east line of Selma township, eleven hundred feet. The Des Moines river descends into this county approximately from fourteen hundred to thirteen hundred and thirty feet above the sea.

Estimates of the average height of the townships of Cottonwood county are as follows: Selma, twelve hundred and twenty-five feet above the sea; Mountain Lake, including two governmental townships, thirteen hundred feet; Delton, thirteen hundred and twenty-five; Carson, thirteen hundred and seventy-five; Lakeside, fourteen hundred and ten; Germantown, twelve hundred; Amboy, fourteen hundred; Dale, fourteen hundred and fifty; Great Bend, fourteen hundred and ten; Highwater, twelve hundred and twenty-five; Storden, fourteen hundred; Amo, fourteen hundred and fifty; Springfield, fourteen hundred and thirty; Ann, thirteen hundred; Westbrook, fourteen hundred and twenty; Rose Hill, fourteen hundred and fifty; and South Brook, fourteen hundred and twenty-five. The mean elevation of Cottonwood county, derived from these figures, is thirteen hundred and sixty feet.

Soil and Timber. The soil of Cottonwood county has the same nearly uniform fertility that characterizes all southern and western Minnesota. A black, sandy clay, with some intermixture of gravel, and containing occasional boulders, forms the soil, which has been colored to a depth of about two feet below the surface by decaying vegetation. Unmodified glacial drift or till, the same as the soil, excepting that it is not enriched and blackened by organic decay, continues below, being yellowish-gray to a depth of ten or twenty feet, but darker and bluish beyond, as seen in wells. This deposit contains many fragments of magnesian limestone, red quartzite, granites and crystalline schists; and its fine detritus is a mixture of these rocks pulverized, presenting in the most advantageous proportions the mineral elements needed by growing plants. Wheat has been the principal crop, but stock-raising has also received much attention during several years past. A large variety of crops is profitably cultivated in this region, including wheat, oats, corn, garden fruits and vegetables, potatoes and hay.

From 1873 to 1876 Cottonwood county, in company with all southwestern Minnesota, was distressed by the ravages of the Rocky Mountain locust. To many the work of plowing and sowing, and the wheat sown, were total losses during those years. In 1880 frequent groves were noticeable in the county, which had been set out to shield farm houses from the wind, and still remained, though the buildings were gone, and the farms deserted, telling where in this struggle the grasshoppers had conquered. Though the wheat was nearly everywhere eaten by them so that no harvest could be saved, the prairie grass suffered only slightly, and from this epoch herding has taken an important place in the agriculture of the county.

This county is natural prairie, affording rich pasturage, and ready for the plow. Less than a hundredth part of their area was wooded, including small groves and narrow skirts of timber and brushwood about the shores of the lakes, along the large creeks, and especially along the whole extent of the Des Moines river. The following species of trees and shrubs are found: American or white elm, bur-oak, white ash, box-elder, black walnut, willows, prickly ash, smooth sumach, frost grape, Virginia creeper, climbing bitter-sweet, wild plum, choke-berry, black raspberry, rose, thorn, smooth wild gooseberry and wolfberry, common red or slippery elm, cottonwood, hackberry, waahoo, and black currant, less frequent, also basswood, sugar maple, etc.

GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

Potsdam Quartzite. The only exposures of bed-rock in this district are the red quartzite, which forms a prominent ridge in the north part of Cottonwood county, reaching into the edge of Brown and Watonwan counties. From the most eastern to the most western outcrop of this rock is a length of twenty-three miles, and the width upon which it is occasionally exposed increases from a half mile or less at the east to six miles at the west. The contour of this area is a massive highland of rock, mostly covered by a smooth sheet of till, with gracefully rounded top and moderate slopes. The general character of this formation, and the location, extent, and special features of its outcropping ledges are to be noted here.

About thirty miles east-northeast from this ridge in northern Cottonwood county, the same rock formation has extensive exposures, and it continues westward into Dakota to Dell Rapids and Sioux Falls on the Big Sioux river, and to Rockport on the James river, seventy miles west of Minnesota, and about one hundred and eighty miles westward from New Ulm,

in Brown county. All these outcrops are mainly very hard, fine-grained quartzite, differing in color from pinkish gray to dark dull red, always having some red tint; and varying in the thickness of its beds from a few inches, or sometimes only a half inch or less, to one or two feet. It is usually perceptibly tilted, with considerable variability in the direction of its tips, which vary in amount from one or two to fifteen or twenty degrees, and rarely attain an inclination of forty-five degrees. This quartzite is a metamorphosed sandstone. At a few places it occurs in an imperfectly indurated condition, being a more or less crumbling sandrock, composed of water-rounded grains. Sometimes, too, it is a conglomerate, enclosing abundant water-worn pebbles up to an inch in diameter, which was originally an ordinary fine gravel, having become so cemented as to form a very compact and hard, tough rock, and by diminution in the number of pebbles scattered through it, the formation exhibits all grades between this pudding-stone and its typical condition as a quartzite. Again, it occasionally contains layers, from less than an inch to several feet thick, of argillaceous rock, so fine-grained and even in its texture as to appear microscopically homogeneous, doubtless metamorphosed from deposits of fine silt or clay in the midst of beds of sand; commonly dull red, but often mottled with pale spots, or striped by the same lighter tints in parallelism with its stratification; soft enough to be easily carved and polished, and its best varieties entirely free from grit. This has been named catlinite, and its finest layer is that which has been worked by the Indians, at the celebrated Red Pipestone quarry.

The planes of bedding of this quartzite frequently show very distinct and beautiful ripple marks, such as are made by waves upon the sandy shores and bottom of lakes or of the sea. No fossils have been detected in this formation, as here described in southwestern Minnesota and southeastern Dakota; and fucoid impressions, rarely observed, are the only remains of life yet found in the probably equivalent Cupriferous series of red quartzites and sandstones interstratified with thick basaltic overflows developed about Lake Superior. The quartzite from New Ulm to the James river is closely like the sandstone and quartzite associated with trap rocks in northeastern Minnesota, in northern Wisconsin and northern Michigan, but its deposition was not similarly accompanied by outflows of igneous rock, nor has this formation in southern Minnesota been intersected by trap dikes. Foster and Whitney referred these rocks in the region of Lake Superior to the Potsdam age, considering them the western equivalent and representative of the Potsdam sandstone in New York, and the explorations by this survey of their continuation into northeastern Minnesota sustain this conclusion, while the

observations of this quartzite outcropping in the southwest part of the state and farther west indicate that it belongs to the same epoch. This formation underlies the Caliciferous or Lower Magnesian series, which outcrops along the lower part of the Minnesota river from a point fourteen miles east-southeast of New Ulm, in Brown county, and along the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers.

In the northeast quarter of section 25, Selma township, this red quartzite is exposed upon an eastward slope of till, with an area three rods long from northwest to southeast, and about a rod wide, rising some two feet above the general surface. In the southeast quarter of section 23, Selma township, this rock outcrops on a southward slope along a distance of about twenty-five rods from the east to west, with a width of two or three rods and a height of only one to two feet. It dips about ten degrees southward. Both these ledges have been slightly quarried. They are the ordinary, very hard quartzite, intersected by systems of joints which give it a rhomboidal fracture. Other outcrops of the same stone, which have not been visited in this survey, occur northwestward at numerous places in this township and in the northwest part of Delton, upon the high ridge and in the hollow where the north branch of the North fork of Watonwan river crosses it.

The quartzite also has frequent exposures in Delton along nearly the whole extent of the Little Cottonwood river through this township, and in its tributary ravines. In the east part of the southeast quarter of section 8, it has been much quarried in the banks and channel of this stream, supplying rough stone used for foundations, cellar walls, well curbing and culverts, or by the Russian immigrants, for chimneys, being sometimes teamed fifteen miles. It occurs in layers of all thicknesses up to two and one-half feet, the thinly bedded portions, as usually, being much divided by joints into rhomboidal fragments a foot or less in length. The bedding planes are often ripple-marked over several square rods together, in parallel undulations about a quarter of an inch high and two to four inches apart from crest to crest. This dip is about 5 degrees south, 20 degrees west. This is some twenty rods east of the Little Cottonwood falls, where the same rock in its upper portion forms layers three to six feet thick, dipping about six degrees to the south, but only a few feet lower, near the level of the stream, is thin-bedded and somewhat contorted and irregular in stratification.

Quartzite outcropping in the north part of the southwest quarter of section 18, Delton township, occurs in layers up to six inches thick, dipping about three degrees south, seventy degrees east. Twenty rods farther south it has a dip of the same amount but changed in direction to south forty

degrees east, all these bearings being referred to the true meridian. Its only exposures observed in the south half of this township are in the southeast quarter of section 30, where it is visible at numerous places along an extent of about an eighth of a mile in a ravine tributary to the Watonwan river. A ledge of this rock, very remarkably striated, and bearing rude Indian inscriptions, is found on the ridge about a mile northeast from the Little Cottonwood falls and quarry, being in the north part of the northwest quarter of section 9, Delton township. It has an area of about twenty rods long from east to west, and four to eight rods wide. The dip of its stratification is distinctly seen, but is believed to be about five degrees southward, which is the slope of the surface. Numerous figures are pecked on this rock, representing animals, arrows, etc., similar to those inscribed by the Indians on the quartzite beside the boulders called the Three Maidens, near the Pipestone quarry. From this ledge westward the same typical quartzite frequently outcrops upon the higher part of this ridge and on its northern slope through the northwest part of Delton, northern Amboy, and northeastern Storden.

In the southwest quarter of section 2, Amboy township, a ravine ten to fifteen feet deep extends east-northeast in a straight course about forty rods, varying from two to three rods in width, bordered by vertical walls, ten to fifteen feet high, of rough, thick-bedded quartzite, of red or reddish gray color, nearly level in stratification, mostly much divided by joints. The eastern half of this ravine holds a long pool, ten to twenty feet wide, and five to eight feet deep. At the top of the wall of rock south of the west part of this pool, the much jointed, deep red, striated surface is in many places soft and like pipestone to the depth of an eighth of an inch; but within, there small jointed masses are gritty and hard, the pipestone being only a thin coating at the bedding planes. At the western end of this ravine, on its north side, eight feet above the rivulet that flows east in to this pool, this rock encloses a layer, nearly level, varying from four inches to a foot in thickness, somewhat like the pipestone of the famous quarry in Pipestone county, having nearly the same very fine texture and dark red color, but not so hard, and at this place, through its extent of twenty feet exposed to view, easily divisible into small flakes and fragments because of joints, and therefore not seen in any solid mass. The edge of this layer has been mostly removed by weathering to a depth of two to six feet into the wall of tough, reddish gray quartzite, which overhangs and underlies it. The divisions of this very fine-grained bed from the coarse quartzite are not definite lines, but these unlike sediments are more or less blended and

interstratified through one to six inches. Both above and below, the quartzite in some portions contains pebbles up to a third or half of an inch in diameter, and is quite variable in texture, but is nowhere finely laminated. At a few places the pipestone also is found to contain these small gravel stones; and a few fragments of pipestone up to three inches in diameter are seen enclosed in the quartzite within one to two feet above the pipestone layer.

WATER-FALLS AND CASCADES.

Picturesque falls are produced by this formation in the northeast quarter of section 36, Germantown township. The rock here is mostly a very coarse-grained, thick-bedded sandstone, slightly iron rusty or reddish in color. Nearly all of it is somewhat friable, being thus unlike the other exposures of this formation in this county. In some portions, however, it is here very hard and compact, and then usually has a deeper red hue. Its dip is about five degrees, ten degrees east. Besides this general dip, the beds often show oblique lamination. This rock is in some places slightly conglomerate, holding pebbles of white quartz, and less frequently of red felsyte, or, possibly, jasper, the largest seen being an inch long. These falls are about two miles northeast from the gorge last described, being on the lower portion of the same stream, which is one of the sources of Mound creek. Along its intervening course and within short distances from it on each side, this formation has frequent outcrops, notably for a quarter of a mile south and southwest of the falls. The stream descends thirty feet in a little succession of cascades, within a distance of twenty rods; next below which is a basin some six rods long and four rods wide, bordered by vertical or overhanging walls of rock, about thirty feet high. At its east end this basin is so contracted that for a distance of about twenty feet these walls of rock are only eight to fifteen feet apart. Below, for the next twenty-five rods, the gorge is four to six rods wide, bordered by vertical walls of reddish sandstone or quartzite, which decline from thirty to twenty and ten feet high. The same rock is seen thence nearly all the way for a half mile east, mostly forming cliffs fifteen to twenty feet high at the south side of this creek, to the junction of another stream from the south in section 31, Stately, Brown county, which also has an interesting fall formed by the quartzite.

The most western exposure of this rock learned of in Cottonwood county is in the northwest quarter of section 28, Storden. Typical quartzite, very compact and tough, varying in color from dull red to slightly reddish gray, is here exposed in the bed of a stream tributary to Highwater creek, along

a distance of fifteen rods or more from north to south, with a width of two to four rods. Its dip is about five degrees to the southeast or south sixty degrees east. It is much divided by joints and is thereby somewhat fractured into rhomboidal pieces. Ripple-marks were seen in several places, the undulations being two to three inches wide. Fragments of red pipestone one to two inches in diameter occur rarely in this rock. Another outcrop is reported one mile northeast from the last, on the the northeast quarter of section 21, Storden, in a ravine; and others occur a half-mile southeast of Carlson's, near the center of section 27, in the bed of small ponds through which the brook flows. The west part of the southwest quarter of section 6, Dale, has considerable exposure of quartzite, scarcely rising, however, about the general surface of the till, along a distance of twenty rods and more from north to south, on a westward slope, about a mile east from the east end of Lake Augusta. The stone varies in color from yellowish gray to a dull red, is much jointed, and has a dip at the quarry of about five degrees northeast. Laminae of pipestone from a fourth to a third of an inch thick, deep red, traversed by whitish veins, in their predominant red color and soft slaty texture, closely like the pipestone of Pipestone county, were noted here upon the surface about fifteen feet east of the quarried excavations, occurring at bedding planes along an extent of about two rods. Here, also, fragments of this deep red pipestone, up to one or two inches in diameter, are enclosed in the quartzite, which is mostly of a more grayish red color.

Several other outcrops of this rock, similar in extent and character, occur within a distance of a mile to the south and southeast through section 7, Dale, and in the east edge of section 12, and perhaps also of section 1, Amo. These most southern exposures of this area of quartzite were examined by Professor Winchell in 1873. The stone is very hard, but banded with light and red beds, evident on the planed surface and on the fractured side.

The observations of dip recorded in the foregoing pages indicate that these Potsdam strata in Selma, Delton, Stately and Germantown are monoclinal, dipping generally about five degrees southward; and that probably farther west in Germantown, Amboy, Storden, Dale and Amo, where a greater width is exposed, they are sinclinal on the north, dipping about five degrees toward the south, and on the southwest dipping an equal amount toward the northeast and north. From the Little Cottonwood falls in Delton along the distance of three miles northerly to the falls in section 36, Germantown, Professor Winchell in a recent reconnaissance found numerous outcrops of the rock with a nearly uniform southward dip of about five degrees, from

which he computes the thickness of the formation exposed between those points to be approximately one thousand three hundred and eighty feet. Stratigraphically, the lowest of the beds thus observed are at the falls on Mound creek in Germantown, where outcrops extending twelve hundred feet from north to south, with a dip of five degrees toward the south, give a thickness of one hundred feet for the friable sandstone seen at that place. This forms the base of the strata measured, being below beds of very hard and compact quartzite, which are almost a quarter of a mile thick.

DRIFT AND CONTOUR.

The surface of the Potsdam quartzite in many places shows distinct glacial markings, notes of which are presented in the following table. These bearings are referred to the true meridian, from which the magnetic needle here has a variation of about ten degrees to the east.

Course of glacial striae in Cottonwood county: Selma, northeast quarter of section 25, south twenty degrees east; Selma, southeast quarter of section 23, south twenty degrees east; Delton, southeast quarter of section 30, south fifteen degrees east; Delton, southwest quarter of section 18, south fifteen degrees east; Delton, northwest quarter of section 18, south twenty-five degrees east; Delton, northwest quarter of section 9, south twenty-five degrees east; Amboy, south part of section 2, mostly south forty degrees east; Amboy, southwest quarter of section 2, south 35 degrees to 50 degrees east; Germantown, northeast quarter of section 36, south thirty degrees east, and south seventy degrees east; Dale southwest quarter of section 6, south twenty degrees to twenty-five degrees east; Dale, south part of section 7, south thirty-four degrees east; Anon, east part of section 12, south thirty degrees to three hundred and twenty degrees east.

Near the Little Cottonwood falls, in the S. E. quarter of section 8, Delton, and at points on the north side of the quartzite ridge in the northwest part of this township, the angles of projecting ledges of this rock were observed to be rounded off by glaciation.

Remarkable deflections and intercrossing of glacial striae were found at the locality mentioned in the N. W. quarter of section 9, Delton. It is on the southern slope of the ridge formed by this quartzite, as already described. This ridge is elevated about 300 feet above the lowland, which from its base two or three miles farther north, extends northward more than fifty miles, across the basin of the Minnesota river; but its height above the average surface to the south and southwest is slight, probably not exceed-

ing 50 feet. Its length is about twenty-five miles, extending from east to west; and this locality is near the middle of its extent. Very distinct glacial markings occur here promiscuously, crossing each other in all directions between north to south and south sixty degrees east, and very rarely, south eighty degrees east, but a great majority are between south twenty-five degrees east and forty degrees east. Many are from ten to thirty feet or more in length, and from an eighth to a half of an inch deep; others are very delicate lines. Curved striae were observed at one place; two or three parallel furrows, covering a width of several inches and extending about ten feet to the southeast, were gradually deflected nine inches southerly from their direct course in the last four feet. All the other very abundant intercrossed striae observed here are straight, or deviate only slightly from straight courses. The outcrop containing pipestone in section 2, Amboy, furnished the only similar instance seen in these counties. Here several parallel glacial scratches bend twenty or thirty degrees in a length of about eight inches. The curvature of these ice-marks, where no obstacle existed to cause deflection, indicate that they were engraved during the final melting and recession of the ice-sheet, when it had become thin, and that its margin at the date of this curved striation was within a few rods. In such a situation the unequal melting of the edge of the ice must produce changes, such as are thus recorded, in the direction of its motion. The prominence of the quartzite ridge doubtless gave unusual irregularity to the outlines of the retreating ice-border in northern Cottonwood county, which, by the resulting deflections of the glacial current, appears to have been the cause of the singularly varying and intercrossed striation of this region.

During the greater part of the last glacial epoch the ice-fields here appear to have flowed in a nearly south-southeast course; but when they were being melted away, the direction of movement close to the ice-border would be often deflected because it must flow toward the nearest part of this irregular and changing boundary, which here and there became indented by bays of small or large extent. The intercrossing striae on the ledge in section 9, Delton, record very changeable glacial currents, now deflected to a due south course, twenty degrees to the right from the direction which they had previously held through this glacial epoch, but presently diverging as much or twice or three times to the left, attaining a southeast or even a nearly east course. The medial moraine directly south of this locality, in Carson and Lakeside, suggests that, when the ice retreated, probably two glacial currents converged here, pushing against each other, and that the striae bearing south were made by the current on the east, and those bear-

ing south sixty degrees to eighty degrees east by the current on the west. Divergences to the east from the prevailing direction of glaciation were noted also four miles farther northwest, in Amboy and Germantown, upon the northern slope and at the north base of this massive ridge. In Germantown a surface about a yard square was observed, on half of which the striae bear uniformly south thirty degrees east, and on the other half seventy degrees east, these portions meeting at a slightly beveled angle from which each side slopes down two or three degrees. The former of these courses of striation is probably that which prevailed till the departure of the ice-sheet, when the great quartzite ridge and the irregularity of the glacial melting caused a deflection of forty degrees toward the east. The later ice-current was steadily maintained during a considerable time, sufficient for planing off a part of this surface of very hard quartzite, but not touching the adjoining part, which could only escape by having a thin covering of drift.

DRIFT.

The drift spread over Cottonwood county is principally till, in part morainic, being accumulated in knolls and hills, or with a prominently rolling surface in massive, smoothly sloping swells, but for the greater part it is only gently undulating in contour. Its thickness on the quartzite ridge varies from one inch to probably fifty feet or more, and in other portions of this county it probably varies from one hundred to two hundred feet in depth. The moraines to be described were formed at the west border of the ice-sheet of the last glacial epoch, the first when this ice covered its maximum area, and the second after it had receded considerably from its farthest limits, when its retreat was interrupted by a halt and perhaps even by some readvance.

In the southwest part of Cottonwood county, this belt of notably rolling and hilly drift occupies the west half of Great Bend, the north part of Springfield, northeastern South Brook, southwestern Amo, and nearly all of Rose Hill. Its width in these townships varies from two to five miles. To the northeast, from the offset of the Des Moines river which crosses this formation in Springfield, it lies a few miles northeast of this river and parallel with it, having within its limits of this county, and especially in Rose Hill township, a prominently rolling contour in smooth swells, twenty to forty feet above the intervening hollows and frequent lakes. To the south from this offset and the great bend of the Des Moines, the second terminal moraine lies west of this river and approximately parallel with it, their distance

apart being from one to ten or twelve miles, along an extent of a hundred and forty miles, through Jackson county and onward in a nearly south-southeast course to Pilot mound and Mineral ridge in northern Boone county, near the center of Iowa.

The most conspicuous portion and most roughly broken contour of this morainic belt in Cottonwood county are in the west part of Grant bend, where a group or range of hills, known as the Blue mounds, begins three miles west of Windom and thence extends three or four miles in a north-west course, with a width varying from a half mile to one and a half miles, lying between the Des Moines river on the northeast and Spring lakes on the southwest. These hills are composed of till with frequent boulders, and rise in very irregular slopes to heights of one hundred to one hundred and seventy-five feet above the river and twenty-five to seventy-five feet above the general level at their west side. The most elevated of these mounds, in sections 17 and 20, are visible from the southeast part of Murray county, fifteen miles to the west; but from the east they can only be seen within a distance of six or eight miles.

Medial Moraine. Across the Des Moines river, the land ascending from it east of Windom, opposite to the Blue mounds, has similar but less prominent morainic features. It consists of irregular knolls, hillocks, and low ridges of till, which enclose hollows and lakes, occupying a width of two or three miles, and gradually rising in this distance about one hundred feet above the Des Moines river. This tract seems to be part of a medial moraine (so called because formed between opposing ice-currents), connected with the second terminal moraine as a branch from its northeast side, and extending north through the two western ranges of sections in Lakeside and Carson. Its most broken portion is found in sections 17, 8 and 5, Carson, which have many small hills and ridges forty to seventy-five feet high, mostly trending from north to south, composed of till with abundant boulders. Ten miles north from these hills in Carson is the morainic tract through which Mound creek flows in Stately, but the interesting area, across which the quartzite ridge extends from east to west, is destitute of such knolly drift deposits.

Beyond the knolly and broken ascent east from the Des Moines river in the vicinity of Windom, the contour changes to a smooth and nearly flat expanse of till, which thence extends seventy-five miles eastward, descending with an imperceptible slope to the Blue Earth river, and beyond this rising in the same manner to the belts of drift hills at the sources of the LeSueur and Cannon rivers. The eastern two-thirds of Lakeside and Car-

son, and all of Mountain Lake township, included in the vast area of intramorainic till, are slightly undulating and differ only five to ten feet in broad swells and depressions from being a perfect plain. This expanse, stretching on all sides to the horizon, would be commonly called level, but the survey of the St. Paul & Sioux City railroad shows that its descent eastward is uniformly about twenty feet per mile through these townships, or some two hundred feet in the ten miles from the railroad summit, a mile west of Bingham Lake to the east line of this county. If the same slope were continued westward it would pass over the summit of the Blue mounds; hence they cannot be seen east of Bingham Lake. Mountain Lake, which has given its name to a railroad station and township, is so called because it contains an island that rises about thirty-five or forty feet in steep bluffs, attaining the same height with the bluffs that surround the lake, even with the average surface of its vicinity.

An exception to the generally smooth contour of the drift-sheet north of the quartzite ridge is found in a quite roughly hilly morainic area, apparently isolated, which lies mainly in the north half of Stately, the most southwest township of Brown county, and extends into Germantown to the west side of section 12. Its abrupt mounds and ridges of stony till are twenty-five to seventy-five feet high, having their greatest prominence in Stately along the lower part of Mound creek. This tract appears to belong to a third terminal moraine. Through the middle of Germantown a notable valley, having a flat bottom of stratified gravel and sand, enclosed by moderately steep slopes which rise about forty feet to the undulating surface of the till on each side, was observed, extending five or six miles in an east-southeast course from near Dry creek at the north side of section 17 in this township, to Mound creek at the east side of section 30, Stately. Another valley of similar character was noted three-fourths of a mile farther south, running parallel with the last through the north part of sections 25 and 26, Germantown township. These deserted water-courses were probably formed during the departure of the last ice-sheet. Upon this region its border, doubtless, retreated to the north and northeast, and while it still lay as a barrier upon the north part of Germantown and was accumulating the morainic hills that lie a few miles to the north-east in Stately, the drainage from its melting was carried by these valleys southeasterly. Farther northwest, the land for a considerable distance, along the probable course of the ice-margin in this stage of its retreat is lower than where these valleys occur, and therefore would be occupied by a lake, and again southeasterly, from

the south part of Stately to Silver Lake in Martin county, a narrow glacial lake probably extended along the border of the ice-sheet, having a height of about twelve hundred feet above the sea, and overflowing south of Iowa lake to the east fork of the Des Moines river.

Boulders and Pebbles. The boulders of the drift in this county are mainly granite, and syenite, crystalline schists, quartzite and limestone. The quartzite ridge in northern Cottonwood county has supplied from a tenth to a half of the large rock-fragments in the drift south of it. Among the large boulders, over one foot in diameter, in this county, it may be that a twentieth part are limestone. At Windom limestone containing receptaculites was found in the drift in digging cellars.

Agriculture must be the chief industry and source of wealth in Cottonwood county. The soil, the narrow belts of timber beside rivers and lakes, the natural pasturage and plough-land of its broad expanses of prairie, are peculiarly fitted for farming operations.

The Potsdam quartzite of northern Cottonwood county has been quarried to some extent, as already mentioned, in sections 23 and 25, Selma township, in section 8, Delton township, and in section 6, Dale township. Owing to the very hard and gritty nature of this rock and its tendency to rhomboidal fracture, it supplies only rough blocks, seldom of large dimensions, yet quite suitable for common foundations and walls, and for the masonry of culverts and small bridges.

Peat. An exploration of the peat of southern Minnesota was made in 1873 by Professor Winchell, whose descriptions embrace the following notes pertaining to Cottonwood county:

Mountain Lake. Near Mountain Lake station, a coarse turf-peat covers the surface of a dry slough to the depth of ten to eighteen inches. Near a spring, along the side of this slough, which is tributary to Mountain Lake, the surface quakes and the peat is thickest. Around Mountain Lake the land is low and is flooded in the wet season. This low land contains considerable peat for some distance out toward the lake. The surface shales under the tread. It is covered in summer with a tall grass, which much resembles the wild rice, yet the softest places, where the peat occurs purest, are furnished with a short grass. Peat here is two or more feet thick. This peat, taken two feet below the surface, was found to contain, when air-dried, 8.69 per cent. of hygrometric water; 31.00 of organic matter, and 59.41 of ash. A hundred pounds of it is estimated to be equivalent to forty-two pounds of oakwood.

Lakeside. Section 24. In a dry slough, covering many acres, the surface consists of a turf-peat, to the depth of about a foot, passing into a black mud and sand. The very top is fibrous and even spongy. The analysis of this gave 10.80 per cent. of hygrometric water; 6.33 of organic matter, and 72.87 of ash; a hundred pounds being equivalent to twenty-one pounds of oak-wood. Peat is again found farther west in the same township, and also on land five miles east of Windom. In a narrow spring ravine, where water stands or slowly runs throughout the year, and near its head, a thickness of a foot or more of turf-peat may be taken out over a space of a few rods square. It is thicker and better near the head of the ravine than at any other point, owing to the more constant protection of the grass and roots from the prairie fires.

Great Bend. The northeast quarter of section 36, in Great Bend township contains peat. In a turfed ravine, where water stands or oozes through the turf, sloping gently toward the Des Moines river, a turf-peat may be taken out to the depth of a foot or twenty inches. The belt containing peat is from ten to twenty feet wide, and similar in its situation to that in Lakeside township, but more extensive. It shakes under the feet for three or four feet about, but a horse can walk safely over it in most places in the dry season. Indeed, it is mown for hay each year. An irony scum lies on the ground and on the grass stalks. The peat itself is a turf, but contains shells and some grit. Another similar ravine is on the same claim. Numerous others might be located along the ravines that cross the Des Moines bluffs.

Amo. Section 12. A slough that shakes is in a valley that forms the prolongation of the Des Moines valley northwestward above the great bend a few miles above Windom, and has a spongy peat about two feet in thickness, with black mud below. It covers six or ten acres. This peat, taken two feet below the surface, was found to contain, when air-dried, 9.85 per cent. water; 42.63 of organic matter, and 47.52 of ash; a hundred pounds of it being equivalent to fifty-six pounds of oakwood. In the same prolongation of the Des Moines valley, two miles above the bend of the Des Moines, is a thickness of two or three feet of peat. This valley seems to hold about two feet of peat along a considerable area through the middle, and would supply a great quantity. It is not of a superior quality, but might be very useful. An analysis of peat taken here shows 13.58 per cent. of hygrometric water; 53.28 of organic matter, and 33.14 of ash; a hundred pounds of this air-dried peat being considered equal in value to seventy

pounds of oakwood. Peat from this place three feet below the surface yielded 11.03 per cent. of water; 41.67 of organic matter, and 47.30 of ash; a hundred pounds of it being equal to fifty-five pounds of oak-wood.

Springfield. In a dry slough in section 6, there is a peaty turf near the mouth of a ravine in considerable abundance.

South Brook. Section 2. Side-hill peat occurs on a gentle slope over the space of a few rods, having a thickness of a foot and a half or two feet. Such peaty patches appear also on the opposite side of the main valley, arising from the issuing of springs that keep the surface moist, while the lower land in the same slough is dry and hard. This peat is not free from sand. It also smells strongly of sulphuretted hydrogen.

CHAPTER III.

PIONEER SETTLEMENT OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY.

The following are stanzas from a lengthy poem written by Thomas Campbell, a resident of the county, and seem appropriate in introducing this chapter :

The dreamer was worn, old and gray,
As he dozed in his chair in the closing day,
And the crimson sun sinking low,
While his dreams went back to long ago.

And he slept on the porch of the homestead there,
The neat farm-house, on the landscape fair;
On the blooming prairie spreading wide,
And crossing the flow of the Des Moines tide.

By the loosened waves of imprisoned thought,
The ways of Time's backward trail were sought;
Then a mental vision soon appeared,
Of Cottonwood back some forty years.

Of a country fertile and fair to view,
Only trod by the moccasined foot of the Sioux,
Or the hoof of his pony in reckless pace,
In the onward rush of the buffalo chase.

But the scene is shifting to later years,
Progressive times and white men's ways,
And the plain is dotted left and right
With wagon tops of canvas white;

And later on, in the seasons' train,
The yellow patches of waving grain,
And the many pictures of peaceful toil,
Of settled life on a grateful soil.

This county was surveyed in 1858-9; the surveyors found a few Germans including Charles Zierke, known as "Dutch Charlie." No one knew where he came from here. It was reported that he was massacred in the Indian outbreak of 1862. He resided in the northwest part of Cottonwood county, where there is a creek named after his nickname, "Dutch Charlie Creek." About a dozen persons had effected settlement in what is Cottonwood county now, prior to 1862, when the Indian troubles set in, the first actual settler in the county was a homesteader named Joseph E. Bean; the

second was George B. Walker. Then a few families came to the Westbrook settlement; early in 1868 came J. W. Benjamin, Simon Greenfield, and others locating in the present township of Lakeside. The settlement increased, but with no marked degree of rapidity until the railroad came through the county. The first settlers marketed their crops at New Ulm, where they also purchased their supplies. On June 1, 1871, the railroad grading was completed through Cottonwood county; this was the old St. Paul & Sioux City line, now the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha system. On June 1 that year the rails were completely laid as far as Win-dom on the Des Moines river.

STRUGGLES OF PIONEER SETTLERS.

The early settlers of this county had anything but a promising outlook. Prairie fires and terrible hail storms swept away much of the property of the settlers in their destructive pathways, but these hardy sons and daughters felt determined to fight their way through these obstacles and adversities. The crop of 1872 was an average crop and the people felt encouraged. In the spring of 1873 a large crop was planted, and the immigrants of previous years, not only of this but of adjoining counties, had expended every resource in preparing the ground and providing seed. A promising harvest was apparent; and all felt that the reward for their severe privations would soon be at hand. But alas, early in June of that year the entire part of southwestern Minnesota was visited by grasshoppers, and nearly all of the growing crops were destroyed and grasshopper eggs laid and buried in the soil, only to curse the country the next season. Great desolation was among the farmers. Appeals made to the charitable throughout the better favored sections of the country brought considerable immediate relief. In the Legislature in January, 1874, an appropriation of five thousand dollars was made for relief of the devastated regions and, later, twenty-five thousand dollars was appropriated for the purchase of seed grain. Wheat was sown from this seed, it came up nicely, but the grasshopper eggs, likewise, hatched out in all their teeming millions. When old enough to eat, they set to work and destroyed all of the growing crops again. The hatching commenced in May and in June their wings had developed enough to enable them to fly frisky. After eating up much of the crops they migrated, filling the heavens at noon-day so as to almost darken the sun and give the sky the appearance of a snow-storm in winter season. They continued to fly and to leave for the south until in July, when having joined

the older grasshoppers, their venerable ancestors, they all disappeared from the county, leaving hundreds and thousands of acres barren and desolate. Year after year they kept this up, aid coming from the state to tide over the brave, never-give-up kind of people found among the county's first pioneer band.

WINTER OF 1872-3.

The winter of 1872-3 was a long, cold one, never to be forgotten by those living in southwestern Minnesota and Iowa. In January, 1872, soon after the building of the railroad through the county, a severe snow and wind storm—now called "blizzard"—swept this county in all of its fury. The railroad was completely blocked from January until April 10, the next spring.

In a storm of three days duration in February, 1872, two sons of a Mr. Lader, of Mountain Lake perished in the snow. The next winter was as bad, and at times worse, and only a few trains of cars run to bring in supplies and fuel for the settlers. It was in the three days storm of 1873 that William Morris was frozen to death within eighty rods of his own house, in Springfield township.

George B. Walker was an early settler of Cottonwood county and was the first man to do any plowing in the county after the Indian massacre of 1862. He died April 13, 1887. On February 19, 1871, he was married to Sarah Greenfield, and this was the first marriage ceremony performed in Cottonwood county.

A more detailed account of the settlement of the county is found in the various township histories of the work. But the following gives quite a number of well-known citizens who made up the pioneer band:

Mr. A. A. Soule settled about one mile southeast of Mountain Lake in 1869. He purchased a pre-emption right of a trapper named Mason and his equity in an adjoining piece of land heavily timbered with oak and other forest trees, consisting of about forty acres. There was also forty acres of artificial timber which consisted of spruce, balsam fir, white cedar, American and European larch, willow, hard and soft maple, ash, cottonwood, coffeenut, black walnut, basewood, whitewood, honey locust, elm, mountain ash, and other varieties.

During 1869 and 1870, Mr. Soule gave most of his time and energy to the planting and growing of trees. At that time he was vice president of the State Forestry Association. Few men take as much interest in forestry as did

this man. The attractiveness alone of Mr. Soule's farm was ample reward for his diligent work, as it was generally known throughout southern Minnesota that this farm was one of the most attractive in this section of the state.

Ira E. Pierce, Sr., came from New Bedford, Massachusetts, and settled on a farm near Clear lake in 1871. He died in February, 1908, at the age of eighty-seven.

Paul Pederson came from Jefferson county, Wisconsin, and settled in Amo township in 1873. He died on March 28, 1908.

Myron Barr was one of the first settlers in Cottonwood county, settling in Lakeside township in 1870 or 1871. He located on a small farm one mile from the station of Bingham lake. During the construction of the railroad Mr. and Mrs. Barr conducted the railroad boarding house, while the men were working between St. James and Sheldon. At various times they boarded as many as one hundred men at a time. With the coming of the grasshoppers Mr. Barr lost all that he had in the way of crops and finally left the country. He died in August, 1908.

J. N. McGregor was born in Belmont, Ohio, 1847, and came to Windom in 1871, where he formed a partnership with D. Patten in the general merchandising business. Later he became county treasurer and president of the First National Bank. He was a man interested in many public enterprises and one who added to the life and spirit of the community. He died on July 22, 1912.

J. A. Billings, an old soldier, settled in Mountain Lake in 1872. He died in May, 1909.

J. H. Reisdorph, known as "Uncle John," was born in New York in 1826 and came to Cottonwood county in 1870. He was an old soldier and died on February 18, 1911.

Thomas S. Brown was born in Scotland and immigrated to this country at an early age. He joined the ranks of the Union army and when the war was over came to Cottonwood county and settled in Springfield township. He was fairly well read in law and finally became judge of probate. He died in August, 1911.

William Barnes, born in Maine, 1801, settled in Mountain Lake township in 1872. He died on September 30, 1881.

B. W. May came to Windom in 1872 and for a time was the only implement dealer in the village. He died in December, 1912.

Tabor C. Richmond was born in Vermont, 1844, and came to Lakeside township in 1871. He was an old soldier and died in March, 1913.

Aaron Schofield was born in England, 1831. He came to this country

and settled in Carson township, section 28, on a tree claim. He died on February 14, 1916.

P. B. Crosby came to Windom in 1872 and erected one of the first tenement houses in the village. He died in February, 1874.

COTTONWOOD COUNTY OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.

In every intelligent, thinking community the pioneer settlers have always organized Old Settlers' Reunion Societies of one sort or another, and Cottonwood county is no exception to the rule. The idea obtains in a special degree in the counties west of the Alleghany mountains in states that have been settled a hundred years or less. These associations have done, and are still doing, much to preserve the local history and promote a friendly feeling among both the pioneers and their sons and daughters. The true fires of patriotism and love of country or of home are strengthened by a narration of such important events as tend to stir the blood and quicken to life those divine affections of man. The love of home and parents and kindred has thus been strengthened by oft-told tales of aged fathers or mothers, especially of those pioneer fathers and mothers who toiled early and late, hard and long, in order to give their descendants the priceless boon of a home and plenty; of refinement and love of God and humanity.

The pioneers in gathering in these annual reunions, seem to live over again those early days and years. Their eyes sparkle and they grow young as the fading reminiscences of other days are recalled. As was well stated by a pioneer in a nearby community, at a meeting of the Old Settlers' Society: "You come together with varied emotions. Some of you, almost at the foot of life's hill, look back and upward at the path you have trod, while others who have just reached life's summit, gaze down into the valley of tears with many a hope and fear. You gray-headed fathers, have done your work; you have done it well; and now as the sunset of life is closing around you, you are given the rare boon of enjoying the fruit of your labor. You can see the land won by your own right arm from its wilderness state and from a savage foe, passed to your children and your children's children, literally 'flowing with milk and honey;' a land over which hover the white-winged, white-robed angels of religion and peace; a land fairer and brighter and more glorious than any other land beneath the blue arch of heaven. You have done your work well, and when the time of rest shall have come, you will sink to the dreamless repose with the calm consciousness of duty done.

"In this hour let memory take her strongest sway; tear aside the thin veil

that shrouds the misty past in gloom; call up before you the long-forgotten scenes of years ago; live over once again the toils and struggles, the hopes and fears of other days. Let this day be a day sacred to the memory of the olden time. In that olden time there are no doubt scenes of sadness as well as of joy. Perhaps you remember standing by the bedside of a loved and cherished dying wife—one who in the days of her youth and beauty when you proposed to her to seek a home in a new wild land, took your hand in hers and spoke words like these: 'Wither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people shall be my people and thy God my God; when thou diest I will die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me and also if aught but death part me and thee.' Or, perhaps, some brave boy stricken down in the pride of his young manhood; or some gentle daughter fading away in her glorious beauty; or some little prattling babe folding its weary eyes in the dreamless sleep. If there are memories like these, and the unbidden tears well up in the eye, let them come, and today one and all shed a tear or two to the memory of the loved and lost."

The pioneer comes to dig and delve, to plant and to sow, to hew and to build, the crooked path to make straight, the rough to make smooth. Neither the river, the lake nor the sea, nor the mountain-chain, nor the vast wilderness have obstacles for them.

Pursuant to a call issued for a meeting to be held on October 19, 1901, a large number of old settlers and their families met at the court house and proceeded to organize an old settlers association. Committees were appointed to perfect the organization and to prepare a constitution and set of by-laws, which were adopted on December 14, that year. The first set of officers was as follows: F. M. Dyer, president; Matt Miller, secretary; Mrs. George E. Le Tourneau, treasurer. The vice-presidents were as follow: First commissioner's district, H. A. Nelson, town of Ann; second commissioner's district, M. N. Caldwell, town of Amo; third commissioner's district, Orrin Nason, Windom; fourth commissioner's district, I. E. Pierce, town of Lakeside; fifth commissioner's district, L. P. Richardson, town of Selma. Jackson county territory to be represented by A. J. Frost, town of Delafield.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the old settlers of Cottonwood county, in order to preserve the traditions and history of its early settlers, to promote social intercourse between ourselves and our families, and to keep that acquaintance and friendship which was so dear to us during the trying years of our early history, do ordain and establish this constitution for the Old Settlers' Association of Cottonwood County, Minnesota.

Article I. The territory embraced under this constitution shall be Cottonwood county and the northern tier of townships in Jackson county, state of Minnesota.

Article II. Any person, after having resided in the territory described in Article I for twenty years, may become a member of this association by signing this constitution.

Article III. Section 1. The officers of this association shall be a president and one vice-president for each commissioner district in Cottonwood county, and one for the northern tier of townships in Jackson county; a secretary and Treasurer, who shall hold their offices for one year, or until their successors are elected.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings, to appoint standing committees, unless otherwise provided, to call special meetings, to provide a place for holding all meetings of the association, and fill by appointment any office that may become vacant, except that of president.

In case of a vacancy in the office of president, the oldest vice-president shall fill the unexpired term.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep the minutes of the association and a record of its membership in a book provided for that purpose.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive all moneys of the association and to pay out the same on an order of the secretary, signed by the president, and to take a voluntary contribution at any regular or special meeting.

Section 5. It shall be the duties of the vice-presidents to preside in the absence of the president, in the order of seniority, to solicit membership and to inform the secretary of any deaths that may occur in the association.

Article IV. Section 1. This association shall meet semi-annually in Windom, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, on the first Saturday in June and on the second Saturday in October of each year.

Section 2. The officers of the association shall be elected by ballot at the semi-annual meeting, held on the first Saturday in June of each year.

Article V. This constitution may be changed or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

A regular meeting was held on June 7, 1902, at which a bountiful dinner was enjoyed, after which came the election of officers and then a short program. Mr. E. Savage related some reminiscences and E. C. Huntington gave a talk on "The South."

On October 11, 1902, the association met at the court house, where an enjoyable program was rendered. Experiences of the early days were told by Doctor Allen, Dewain Cook, I. E. Pierce and J. G. Redding. Music for the occasion was furnished by Mrs. Perkins and Mrs. Stedman and Messrs. Churchill and Gillam. October, 1903, marked another happy meeting of the old settlers in the court house. The old and familiar song, "Home, Sweet Home," was sung with great spirit and enthusiasm by everyone. Such men as Arthur Johnson, Mr. Lewis, E. C. Huntington, M. T. DeWolf and H. M. Goss delighted the audience with their reminiscences of the early days. Mrs. Fred Weld read a very interesting story.

At the regular meeting held on June 3, 1905, an elegant dinner was served after which a splendid program was rendered. The three oldest persons, each above eighty-two years of age, led the way out to the dinner table.

These were S. Hanson, S. S. Gillam and Mrs. E. M. Peterson. Short talks were made by E. D. Mooers and S. S. Gillam, the former speaking on the first postoffice and mail route established in Cottonwood county, and the latter giving his experiences in building a claim shanty. The meeting closed by singing "America."

One of the enjoyable features of the meeting held on October 12, 1907, was the song, "The Old Red Cradle," and also another song by the old settlers quartette entitled, "A Home on the Prairie." Talks were made by I. E. Pierce on his travels; by F. M. Dyer on the prairie fires, and Ole J. Finstad on the grasshoppers.

On October 10, 1908, and also on October 9, 1909, the old settlers were given a rare treat in having with them the Hon. W. S. Hammond, who delivered two stirring addresses. His address on the "Legacy," was especially well received. At the regular June meeting Mr. R. H. Jefferson related many experiences of the early settlers and at the close of his remarks suggested that a fund be started to build an old settlers monument. This idea was well received.

Mr. F. F. Ellsworth, of Mankato, addressed the meeting in October. Mr. Ellsworth's mother formerly lived in Windom during the early days and was a daughter of Nelson Manning, the first representative in the state Legislature from Cottonwood county. Mrs. C. W. Gillam read an original poem "Up and Down the Old Des Moines," that touched the minds and hearts of the pioneers as few things ever have. In her closing remarks she also suggested that a monument be erected in memory of the old settlers and that a very fitting place to erect such a monument would be in the city park overlooking the Des Moines river. This idea met with the hearty approval of all and committees were appointed to investigate the matter and report later.

An old settlers' picnic was held at Cadwell's grove in Amo township, in the summer of 1913. At the noon hour a bountiful dinner was served by the old settlers' wives and daughters in the good old country style, without any frills or decorations or any foreign names attached to the victuals. This meeting was conceded by all to be one of the best ever held and everyone anxiously looked forward to the next annual picnic.

The old settlers' choir opened the October meeting of 1915 by the singing of "America." Reverend Norman gave a very interesting and stirring address that delighted the hearts of the pioneers. Mr. E. D. Mooers made some very appropriate remarks.

The following is a list of the presidents of the Old Settlers Association

in the order of serving: F. M. Dyer, J. G. Redding, D. C. Davis, W. A. Peterson, D. A. Noble, W. W. Hunter, Mrs. LeTourneau, E. D. Mooers.

Among the numerous "memorials" found recorded in the books of the Old Settlers Association of Cottonwood county, the following is a fair sample of the tributes paid to the departed dead of the Association:

MEMORIAL.

A memorial to J. H. Clark, as prepared by Jens J. Jackson, for the Old Settlers Association:

James H. Clark was born on the 24th of April, 1830, in the town of Hollowell, Maine. His boyhood days were spent with his father in the lumber industry, but when the young man became of age he packed his belongings into a little bundle and walked to the city of Bath, where he secured work in a ship yard. He remained at this place until 1856, when he left and started for the state of Minnesota and landed in Taylor's Falls the same year. After staying there for several years he became acquainted with Miss Carrie Jeelosen, to whom he became engaged to marry. When the time came for them to be joined in wedlock, Mr. Clark suggested that they go before a justice of the peace as there was no minister in the place, but Carrie said: "No, James, I want a minister of the gospel to communicate to us the blessing of God that may accompany us on the journey of our married life." So they drove thirty miles to the city of Stillwater, where they found a minister, who pronounced them to be lawful man and wife, on the 16th of April, 1864.

They resided at Taylor's Falls for a period of fourteen years and then came to Windom in 1878, where Mr. Clark engaged in the lumber business and occupied the lumber yard for a short time where the Struck-Sherwin firm now holds forth. Trade was scarce over there, he said, and many a lonesome day did he spend in that hovel as he called his office, for want of anything to do, for he was an industrious man and longed for the time when trade would call him to manual labor as well as mental activity. He was a fearless man and he would never shrink from responsibility so long as he entertained an idea of being in the right. An incident, that some may remember, occurred in the winter of 1881, will show that he feared not even the consequences of a lawsuit when his merciful heart dictated to him to alleviate the suffering of humanity. Many may remember the long blockade of 1881, but the road was open once, when a car of coal that belonged to the railroad company was shipped in and found Windom destitute

of fuel. On Sunday morning Mr. Clark shouldered a shovel, marched to the car, which was quickly opened and he assumed the authority of dealing out the contents to those in need. He also assumed the responsibility of being prosecuted for the act.

Mr. Clark was not generally known to have been a philanthropist, yet there are many who remember his philanthropic deeds. An instance was when Christmas eve dawned upon the village of Windom, he sat at his desk with a little notebook in his hand and he would say that Christmas was near at hand and God have mercy upon the poor. He would write a few names and hand the book to me and say, "John," as he was in the habit of calling me, "do you know of any other poor widow that may be in need?" When the list was complete the names were copied on a slip of paper and handed to a drayman, with instructions to deliver to each lady one-half of a ton of coal. He furnished the fuel, paid the drayage and the matter was kept quiet. He did not publish such facts to the world at large, he would not tell the recipients, because such acts he considered a part of his duty. Nothing gave him more satisfaction than to offer a little comfort to the lonely widow and others in distress.

The love of kindness that he exhibited toward his family was noteworthy of example. His watchful care for their comfort unlimited. He truly complied with God's ordinance in performing the duty of husband and father and the perfect confidence that existed between himself and wife was due to the amiable nature of both.

Mr. Clark left Windom in the fall of 1895 and settled in Minneapolis. He disposed of his business interests in the winter of 1896 and shortly after moved to the city of Los Angeles, California. Here he engaged in the wholesale paper business, but only for a short time as his health was failing and with it his ambition for active life.

His life had not been one of leisure. His holdings were acquired through constant labor and study and he relinquished his hold upon manual exertion, only when the tooth of time exerted its influence upon that mortal structure that had withstood the tempests of time for more than three score years and ten. He died on the 5th of February, 1904, at the age of seventy-three years, nine months, and twelve days, leaving a widow and two daughters to mourn his death.

EARLY HARDSHIPS OF A MAIL CARRIER.

Among other interesting reminiscences related at the first meeting held by the Old Settlers' Association at Windom, was the following:

Orris Nason, known as "Tip," was called upon and gave some incidents of real pioneer life. He came to Minnesota in 1856 and worked near Mankato. Mr. Nason carried the mail—he literally carried it as he had to walk much of the time—from Mankato to Sioux City, Iowa, for four years. The first round trip, a distance of four hundred and fifty miles, was made in fourteen days. Probably the howling of the wolves urged Mr. Nason to make the trip in so short a time, as those wild beasts were plentiful and ferocious in the days from 1856 to 1861. Mr. Nason took a claim near String lake. He and his wife, "Lib," managed to get along in some small quarters, a tent answering for a dwelling. At one time a room about seven by nine feet, answered for parlor, bedroom and kitchen. An ox team furnished motive power for traveling and breaking up the prairie sod. Mr. and Mrs. Nason had many hardships to endure with storms and grasshoppers, but they now enjoy the well-earned fruits of their labors.

CHAPTER IV.

ORGANIZATION OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY.

Cottonwood county, Minnesota, was created, May 23, 1857, with the county seat at Windom, and is one of second tier of counties north of the Iowa state line, and the third county from the state of South Dakota. This county has a length of five townships, and a width from north to south of four, except that on the northeast corner, two of the townships which would be included in this county if it were a complete rectangle, belong to Brown county, Minnesota.

This leaves the county eighteen townships, each six miles square, an area of six hundred and fifty and thirty-nine one hundredths square miles, or equivalent to 416.250 acres, of which some eight thousand acres are covered with water. In 1914 the county had fifteen hundred and eighty farms. The villages of the county are: Windom, Mountain Lake, Bingham Lake, Delft, Jeffers, Storden and Westbrook. Windom, the county seat, is situated in Great Bend township on the banks of the Des Moines river.

The county has numerous lakes within its borders, the chief of which are: Bingham lake, one mile long; Bean lake, Augusta, Three, Swan, Clear, Long and Willow or Fish lakes, ranging from one-third of a mile to over one mile long, and some more scattered over the county. The surface of the county is made up of really beautiful rolling prairie, diversified by the lakes and numerous streams, while health groves planted by the hands of the sturdy pioneers, enhance the beauty and value of the domain of the entire county. Some of these artificial groves now tower from twenty to fifty feet in height and afford a splendid, cooling shade for man and beast in summer time and a perfect wind-break during the roaring blasts and occasional blizzards of the long severe winter months. These groves include soft maple, cottonwood, willow, ash, box elder, elm and other varieties common to this climate.

SOIL.

The soil of Cottonwood county has been treated in the chapter on geology and hence need not be here enlarged upon, more than to add that it is of a rich make-up and produces corn and grain, with all the common grasses

of Minnesota. It withstands great drought as well as excessive rainfall. The grasses of the county make it an ideal location for the dairymen and stock growers.

The total assessed valuation of Cottonwood county in 1912 was \$8,523,570, of which \$1,215,274 was personal property. The county has, of late years, come to be known as among the "corn counties" of the commonwealth of Minnesota. The farmer now calls corn his staple crop.

Cottonwood county is bounded on the north by Redwood and Brown counties; on the east by Brown and Watonwan counties; on the south by Jackson county and on the west by Murray county.

THE TWO "STOLEN" TOWNSHIPS.

Much has been said and written in times past concerning the two civil townships that should have been left as a part of Cottonwood county, but which, through trickery, were stolen and added to Brown county. The younger generation knows nothing of this, and in fact few know that township 108, ranges 34 and 35 ever belonged to Cottonwood county. To make this clear to the reader of this history the following able article from the pen of Attorney Emory Clark, the pioneer attorney of Windom and Cottonwood county, will be given, as copied from the *Windom Reporter*, in which paper it appeared in 1873:

At the request of the county auditor of this county I have investigated the matter of county lines between Cottonwood and Brown counties, and will gladly give to the public the facts as I have discovered them by this research.

The legislative assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, February 20, 1855, passed an act entitled "An act to define the boundaries of certain counties," and in and by section 19 of said act provided "that so much of the territory as was formerly included within the county of Blue Earth, and has not been included within the boundaries of any other county, as herein established, shall be known as the county of Brown."

By this act all the territory west of range 28 and south of township 100, which embraced what is now the counties of Martin, Jackson, Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood and Watonwan, the south tier of townships in Brown county, and the west tier of townships of Blue Earth county, was established as the county of Brown.

On February 11, 1856, the legislative assembly passed an act entitled, "An Act to organize the county of Brown, section 1, of which reads: That

the county of Brown is declared to be an organized county, and is entitled to all the privileges and immunities, and subject to all liabilities of other organized counties of this territory."

Section 2 locates the county seat at New Ulm. On May 29, 1857, the legislative assembly passed an act entitled: "A bill to establish certain counties, and for other purposes."

Section 7 of this act reads: "That so much of the Territory of Minnesota as lies within the following boundaries be, and the same is hereby established as the county of Cottonwood; beginning at the southeast corner of township 105, north of range 34 west; thence due north to the north line of township 108, north of range 38, east; thence due south to the southwest corner of township 105, north of range 38, west; thence due east to place of beginning."

This description would embrace twenty townships, and include the two Congressional townships in township 108, ranges 34 and 35 which have heretofore been deemed a part of Brown county.

Previous to the year 1857, when our state Constitution was adopted, county lines were subject to change at the will of the Legislature, but section 1, article 2, of the Constitution requires that "all laws changing county lines already in counties already organized, shall before taking effect be submitted to the elections of the county or counties to be effected thereby, and be adopted by a majority vote of such electors."

In 1864 the Legislature passed an act entitled: "An act to change the boundary line of Brown county," by which those two congressional townships theretofore in the northeast corner of Cottonwood county, would become a part of Brown county, and in the same act changing the county line between Brown and Redwood counties.

The proposition was submitted to the electors of the three counties at the annual election of 1864, but as Cottonwood county was not yet organized no vote was cast by her, and Redwood only cast fourteen votes in all, that being her first election. Brown county cast two hundred and eighty-seven votes in favor of the change and none against it.

Now it is contended by some, that as the act provided for a vote of the three counties on the proposition and one of these counties was then unorganized, the result of the election in 1864 did not effect a change of the county lines; and moreover that the law itself was unconstitutional, as it endorsed more than one subject which was not expressed in the title. Be this as it may, we still find in the General Statutes of 1866, chapter 8, sec-

tion 16, that the boundary line of Cottonwood county is the same as established on May 29, 1857.

The interests of Cottonwood county requires an early determination of this state of doubt as to the county line. The assessed valuation of the lands alone in these two townships amounted to \$15,000, besides it embraces one-tenth of the whole territory of the county. The tax and benefit of these townships are now being enjoyed by Brown county. The authorities of Cottonwood county should be as vigilant of the county lines as a farmer is of his farm boundary lines.

(Signed) E. CLARK.

May, 1873.

It appears that the good advice given by the above writer was not properly heeded, for Brown county still retains the two townships in question. It will be remembered that the vote was taken on this question in 1864—a time when Cottonwood county had been depopulated by the Indian uprising of 1862, and many of the settlers in Redwood and Cottonwood counties had not yet returned to their claims.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Counties, like states and nations, have their own peculiar form of government. While each county has its own local laws and rules, and no other county can dictate as to the management of affairs, yet all county governments are in perfect harmony with the general state laws under one common constitution. Then, the townships in a county have still other rules that its people make and abide by, which may or may not be like any other township in the county; yet, in a general sense, all townships must be governed so as not to interfere with the laws of the county in which they may be situated.

In Cottonwood county the offices in both township and county government have been held generally by representative citizens who have sought only to do the will of the people in a lawful manner, as they have understood the laws. There have been a few exceptions to this rule, but not more so here than in any other township or county in Minnesota.

It has been the general policy of this county (and was so from the very beginning) to live within its means, and while bonds have at certain times been issued, it was in order that the small warrants against the county might be paid in full when presented. However, such bonds have usually been issued for the purpose of making internal improvements from which the

succeeding generations possibly, may reap the greatest benefits; hence, it is no more than right that they should pay a share of the amount called for in these bond issues, whether it be for county buildings, roads, drainage or other improvements which are demanded by a progressive people. All of the later improvements made in Cottonwood county have been made with a view to the future— the bridges and public buildings, etc., having all been constructed of the best materials and by skillful workmen, who have not been allowed to slight their contract in the least.

NO HARD COUNTY-SEAT CONTESTS.

At first the seat of county government was at a point about four miles above present Windom, on the Des Moines river, and was known as Big Bend. There the first county business was transacted, but in November, 1872, the entire set of county officials were removed to quarters provided at the new village of Windom, which, being on a railroad, was the logical place for the county seat to be located. Here it has remained ever since, although there was a time when the people in and about the village of Jeffers thought they were entitled to the county seat. They were very near the exact geographical center of the county and had secured a branch railroad, which made their argument all the stronger, but the seat of justice was not moved and the fine, expensive court house that stands in Windom today will no doubt house the county offices for many long years to come.

So sure were the good citizens of Jeffers that they could induce the voters to remove the county seat to their place, they donated what is known as the "court house square," but the ground has always stood unoccupied. Had the center of the county had a railroad at the date of its organization, it would doubtless have secured the county seat, but at that early day the settlements were far from the center of the county and the nearest railroad point was naturally taken.

COUNTY'S CONDITION IN 1884.

The following article was taken from the *Windom Reporter*, June 12, 1884: "The tax collection of Cottonwood county at the settlement of the auditor and treasurer, June 1, 1884, amounted to \$14,501.58, leaving a less amount of unpaid taxes on the books than ever shown before. The court house is paid for and Cottonwood county is entirely out of debt. We doubt if there is another county in the state with such a clean record.

"These are facts for the homeseekers and land buyers to consider. If you locate in Cottonwood county you have no old taxes to pay, no court house to build and you have the finest land the sun shines on and its low taxes as are to be found in any civilized country."

ORGANIZATION.

Cottonwood county was organized in 1870. The first meeting of the county commissioners was held on July 20, 1870, and the members of the board were Allen Gardner, J. W. Benjamin and I. L. Miner. They appointed the first set of county officials and their selection were as follows: Charles Chamberlain, auditor; H. M. McGaughey, treasurer; Ezra Winslow, register of deeds; E. B. Sheldon, sheriff; T. C. Imus, judge of probate; J. W. Shofer, county attorney; L. L. Miner, court commissioner; Orren Nason, surveyor; J. A. Harvey, coroner.

At the August meeting in 1870 Great Bend was organized, and the first election for township officers was held at the residence of Charles Chamberlain, August 27.

Originally the county offices were kept at Great Bend, but in 1872, by vote, it was decided to remove them to Windom.

Cottonwood county was attached to Watonwan county for judicial purposes, June 15, 1871, but, by an act of the Legislature in 1873 it was detached from Watonwan county and Murray and Pipestone counties were attached for judicial purposes.

The first term of court was held in Windom, commencing November 11, 1873, with Hon. Franklin H. White, judge; J. G. Redding, clerk; Charles White, sheriff. Three criminal cases were docketed and there were twenty-four civil cases on the docket. The first legal clerk of the courts was H. M. McGaughey, though early in the organization of the county one was appointed, but without authority. Judge White appointed Mr. McGaughey in July, 1873, and he held the position until the fall election, that year, when he was succeeded by J. G. Redding.

The first representative from the county was Hon. Nelson H. Manning, who was seated in January, 1874.

The first Fourth of July celebration in Cottonwood county was held in 1869, in J. W. Benjamin's grove in Lakeside township. The orator on that occasion was George Gray.

The first birth in the county was probably a child born to E. B. Sheldon

and wife, in an immigrant wagon, on the banks of Cottonwood lake, in either 1868 or 1869.

School district No. 1 was organized in 1870 in the southwest part of Big Bend township. The district was three miles square. A school house was erected in that district in 1871, the school being taught by Miss Nettie Sackett at Great Bend in 1871.

The earliest marriage in the county was that of George B. Walker to Sarah J. Greenfield, February 18, 1871.

The first store in Cottonwood county was in Big Bend, John T. Smith being the proprietor, and he was also postmaster.

ASSESSED VALUATION.

In 1871 the assessed valuation of the county was \$99,817; taxes assessed on the same that year amounted to \$1,585.14. The number of acres of land assessed was \$6,043; value of real estate was about \$24,000, and of personal property, \$75,550. The first tax was paid by George F. Robison in January, 1872.

In 1895 the county's assessed valuation was \$3,380,000 in realty and personal property. The total taxes that year amounted to \$73,847.88.

In 1878 the assessed valuation of lands in Cottonwood county was as follows: Dale township, \$3.50 per acre; Amboy township, \$3.50 per acre; Southbrook township, \$3.50 per acre; Ann township, \$3.50 per acre; Springfield township, \$4.00 per acre; Amo and Delton townships, \$3.50 per acre; Highwater and Germantown townships, \$3.75 per acre; Carson township, \$4.00 per acre; Selma township, \$3.50 per acre.

In 1905 the total assessed valuation of all real estate in Cottonwood county was \$6,171,632; of personal property, \$863,684.

By townships and villages, the assessed valuation of Cottonwood county in 1916 was as follows, this representing about one-third of the actual value of the realty named and about forty per cent. of the personal property held in the county:

Township or Village.	Realty.	Personal.
Amboy township -----	\$ 514,190	\$ 55,100
Amo township -----	528,969	67,724
Ann township -----	540,286	61,452
Carson township -----	530,744	83,180
Dale township -----	534,420	68,257



FARM HOME NEAR WINDOW.

Township or Village.	Realty.	Personal.
Delton township -----	530,379	52,914
Germantown township -----	534,967	65,858
Great Bend township -----	518,945	65,417
Lake side township -----	517,622	61,532
Midway township -----	551,850	60,204
Mountain Lake township -----	522,860	51,717
Highwater township -----	530,660	70,675
Rose Hill township -----	524,838	57,250
Selma township -----	522,043	57,677
Southbrook township -----	474,732	48,614
Springfield township -----	523,197	66,127
Storden township -----	567,507	105,616
Westbrook township -----	537,388	68,104
Bingham Lake village -----	33,954	18,701
Jeffers village -----	77,937	52,372
Mountain Lake village -----	248,189	119,471
Westbrook village -----	112,710	78,189
Windom village -----	471,534	248,148
Totals -----	\$10,498,597	\$1,687,388

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS.

The following is a transcript and general account of the more important and historic facts connected with Cottonwood county, as shown by the minute books kept by the commissioners in the county auditor's office at Windom:

The first meeting of the county commissioners was held on July 27, 1870, the commissioners being Allen Gardner, Jr., Joel W. Benjamin and Lewis C. Miner. Mr. Gardner was elected chairman of the board and Charles Chamberlin was appointed clerk.

The first regular act of this, the first law-making body of Cottonwood county, was to divide the county into commissioner districts as follow: District No. 1 was made up of ranges 34 and 35; district No. 2 consisted of range No. 36; district No. 3 consisted of ranges 37 and 38.

On motion of Commissioner Allen Gardner, Charles Chamberlin was appointed county auditor; on motion of Joel W. Benjamin, H. M. Mc-

Gaughey was appointed county treasurer; on motion of Allen Gardner, Ezra Winslow was appointed register of deeds; on motion of Joel W. Benjamin, Ezekeil B. Sheldon was appointed sheriff; on motion of Lewis Miner, John W. Shafer was appointed county attorney; on motion of Joel W. Benjamin, Tabor Imus was appointed judge of probate; on motion of Allen Gardner, Lewis L. Miner was appointed court commissioner; on motion of Allen Gardner, Orrin Nason was appointed county surveyor; on motion of Joel W. Benjamin, John A. Harvey was appointed coroner; on motion of Allen Gardner, Charles Chamberlin was appointed clerk of the district court.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS.

David Mooers and S. P. Stedman were appointed justice of the peace for district No. 2; John Wilford and Rev. John Cropsey, for district No. 3; Charles Robison and Frank Pones for district No. 1.

The first constables appointed by the county commissioners were P. Thomas and O. B. Bryant, for district No. 2; R. A. Nichols and Mr. Oaks, for district No. 3; Kirk Sheldon and I. F. Grant, for district No. 1.

David Mooers was appointed assessor for district No. 2; John Wilford, for district No. 3; Simeon Greenfield, for district No. 1.

On motion of Allen Gardner, Hosea Eastgate was appointed overseer of the poor.

SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

The second session of the county commissioners was held at Great Bend, August 15, 1870. The object of this meeting was to organize civil townships in the county. A petition having been presented by the legal voters of township 105, range 35 west, asking that a township be organized, it was done. The board named the new township "Lakeside," and ordered that the first township meeting and election be held at the house of Joel W. Benjamin on Saturday, August 27, 1870. O. M. Benhaus, Tabor Imus and Simeon Greenfield were appointed judges of the election, and R. P. Mathews was appointed clerk. Several other townships were organized (see township histories).

January 3, 1871, was the date for the next meeting of the county board, it also being held at the first county seat, Great Bend. The members present were S. B. Stedman and Hogan Anderson. H. M. McGaughey was appointed county school superintendent. The board resolved to levy a tax of

three hundred dollars "for the purpose of defraying the expenses already incurred and to be incurred during the present year."

At the April 22, 1871, meeting, the county officers were ordered to hold their respective offices at the building of the auditor, "who will furnish ample room for the keeping of all books belonging to the county. The clerk is instructed to notify each officer of this order."

At the January 2, 1872, commissioners' meeting, the first held at Windom, seventy-two men were drawn for grand jurymen and seventy-two for trial jurymen. The district court was held at Madelia, Watonwan county, as this county was then attached to that for judicial purposes.

At the last-named meeting, it was resolved to lease the offices then being occupied by the county auditor for the next year at one hundred dollars per year, payable quarterly, the owner to light and heat the building. Emory Clark was declared elected county attorney and gave his official bonds to the commissioners. The board at that session decided to grant licenses to sell intoxicating liquors to any who might make out the proper application papers and the amount to be charged was seventy-five dollars.

On March 4, 1872, the commissioners met again and at that time they declared the office of county treasurer vacant, the sureties to be discharged from further obligations. On motion of member Hogan Anderson, Eli A. Stedman was appointed county treasurer to fill the agency, and he forthwith furnished bonds in the sum of five thousand dollars. L. L. Miner, previous county treasurer, was requested to pay over all the county money and the papers and books belonging to Cottonwood county.

On January 7, 1873, the members present at the board meeting were George A. Purdy, George F. Robison and Hogan Anderson, Mr. Purdy being chairman. Official bonds were furnished as follow: Eli A. Stedman, treasurer; J. G. Redding, court commissioner; S. M. Espey, county auditor; Charles White, sheriff; A. D. Perkins, judge of probate.

At this session H. M. McGaughey was allowed fifty dollars for services as county superintendent of schools for that year. The liquor license was increased to ninety dollars per year.

On January 9, 1873, the county treasurer's bond for ten thousand dollars was furnished by the newly-elected county treasurer, M. E. Donohue. At this session of the board they accepted the donation from the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company for block No. 23, in the village of Windom, to be used to erect a court house and county buildings upon, and that S. M. Espey be requested to notify the company to send on the deed for the same.

On January 11, 1873, the commissioners first let a contract for publish-

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ing the proceedings of the county board to the *Windom Reporter* at fifty cents a folio.

On February 4, 1873, the following resolution was passed: "Be it resolved by the board of county commissioners of Cottonwood county that M. E. Donohue, of said county, having failed to furnish an additional bond as treasurer of said county and that the ten days having elapsed since he was notified; therefore, be it resolved, that the said Donohue is hereby removed from said office of county treasurer. Members George A. Purdy and George F. Robison voted in the affirmative and Hogan Anderson in the negative. Another resolution the same day was as follows: "Be it resolved by the board of county commissioners of Cottonwood county that Eli B. Stedman be declared appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of county treasurer caused by the removal of M. E. Donohue."

It appears of record that Treasurer Donohue furnished bonds, but the list of bondsmen contained three who were not considered financially good, hence the commissioners demanded further security, which the treasurer failed to furnish and refused to do so.

The board of commissioners provided for the construction of the first wagon bridge over the Des Moines river at Windom during the year 1873; it was built by Contractor N. H. Manning and cost the county seven hundred dollars for the structure and about three hundred dollars for building approaches to it.

Nothing special transpired, as shown by the records, until the meeting held on June 6, 1874, when County Treasurer Stedman resigned and the commissioners appointed C. H. Smith to fill the vacancy.

In January, 1875, the county attorney had his salary fixed at two hundred dollars per year.

On July 26, 1875, the county commissioners requested His Honor, Judge Dickinson, if it was consistent with good business policy, not to call a special term of the district court in this county that summer or fall, on account of the total destruction of the crops and the inability of the county to secure the necessary expenses for the same.

In 1876 the county issued its first bond. Bond No. 1, for twelve hundred dollars, was issued to H. D. Winters, August 1, 1876, for five years at ten per cent. interest per annum. This bond was issued for the purpose of paying off the floating debt of the county.

TREE PREMIUMS.

In 1876 the commissioners allowed George F. Robison nine dollars premium, or bounty, on the three and sixty-eight hundredths acres of timber he had growing and also the one hundred and eighty rods of hedge about his farm premises. Aaron Schofield was allowed two dollars premium on his one acre of planted timber; W. T. Richardson, on his three and thirty-six hundredths acres of timber, received a credit of six dollars and seventy-two cents.

GRASSHOPPER APPROPRIATIONS.

In 1877 the county commissioners had plenty of work trying to adjust the losses sustained by the farmers of Cottonwood county by reason of the seventeen-year locusts (commonly called grasshoppers). An agent was appointed in this county to measure and destroy all grasshoppers brought to his notice within the county. On motion, the commissioners ordered that the compensation for measuring and killing these pests and their eggs should be one and a half dollars a day for actual time employed in measuring, killing and making out proper reports and accounts of the same.

On March 28, 1877, S. B. Stedman was appointed superintendent of burning prairie grass for Cottonwood county for the year commencing April, 1877; his compensation was fixed at one dollar and fifty cents a day and ten cents a mile for use of team when necessary to use a team in his work.

TAXES IN 1877.

In 1877 the county revenue was \$3,507, and the taxes levied were to cover the following items of county expenses: Officers' salaries, \$2,320; interest, \$270; court house expenses, \$500; incidental expenses, \$250, with five per cent. for losses. Ordered that \$500 be raised for caring for the poor and \$250 for bridge purposes.

In 1879 the commissioners offered a bounty on gophers to the amount of five cents for each head or pelt brought to the court house and vouched for as being killed within Cottonwood county.

In 1881 the commissioners ordered constructed a new combination bridge of two spans crossing the Des Moines river at Windom. The King Bridge Company obtained the contract at \$2,000.

On January 2, 1883, the commissioners ordered a bridge in Springfield

township, over the waters of the Des Moines river in section 21, the same to cost not in excess of nine hundred dollars.

At the January, 1883, meeting of the board a committee was appointed to "arrange the office room now occupied by the register of deeds and auditor at an expense of not more than fifty dollars."

COURT HOUSE BUILDING.

The first mention made in the records of the county of providing a court house was made at the March meeting in 1883, in a motion made by M. T. DeWolf. H. M. Goss and Joel Clark were appointed a committee, to report at the next meeting with plans and specifications for a court house not to exceed in cost three thousand dollars, and said committee was to also report on the feasibility of building at once. On March 16, 1883, on motion, it was resolved to build a court house as soon "as it can be practically done at a cost not in excess of three thousand dollars."

On another motion, the plans and specifications by J. Clark for the court house, which was to be thirty-six by fifty feet, were adopted. The building was to be two stories high. John Clark was appointed building committee, with full power to act in every particular, as his judgment might dictate, and that it should be erected as soon as it could be. The commissioners were at that time John Clark, C. Mead, T. Ellison, M. T. DeWolf and H. M. Goss. This court house really cost \$2,916.62. It had been opposed by the farmers, who felt too poor to think of paying for a court house. The county had long been renting of Mr. Klock his building, which was also used for school room purposes, and when court time came school had to be dismissed, for the teachers had no other room; however, their pay as teacher went on just the same as thought they were teaching.

County Commissioner Clark was appointed a committee to lease or rent the hall or court room for dances, shows and was to get seven dollars a night and three dollars for free lectures. It was resolved to tender the use of the court house to the county agricultural society for fair purposes free of charge. The village of Windom was given free use of an extra room in the court house by furnishing the same. The court house was insured for \$2,500 at a \$2.25 per hundred rate for five years. On motion, Windom village was granted the right to put their calaboose on the southwest corner of the court house square, where the park and jail now stand. The old court house now serves as a barn in Lakeside township.

OTHER LOCATIONS FOR COUNTY OFFICES.

The following is the chain of places at which the county seat of government has been held at one time or another: First, the offices were held up the river at Big Bend, at private houses. Second, the offices, at least a part of them, were kept in the "Billy Wilson" small frame store building that stood on the east lot of the present Foss Mercantile building property. This had been erected by Mr. Wilson for a store, but finding it too small, he erected a second building, then leased the first one to the county for its offices. Third, the county commissioners leased of Harvey Klock a two-story frame building, about thirty by forty feet in size. It stood on lots 14 and 15, of block 19, original plat of the village of Windom, and was later used as a residence and then as a drug store by Nels Quevli. It then was occupied as a hardware store by George Miller and the present Earl Marshall & Son hardware store occupies the same lot. The railroad company sold this lot originally to David Patten and he, in turn, to Harvey Klock, who erected the building above referred to. The lot was purchased by Klock for one hundred dollars in 1872. At first the village school was kept on the first floor and the court house offices above.

The first court house built by the county—the one erected in 1883, above mentioned—served well its purpose until the present magnificent temple of justice was provided in 1905.

In November 1893, the county board ordered steel shelving for the old court house, the same to cost \$267.

The question of a new court house was agitated and finally, on October 13, 1903, the county board of commissioners decided, by resolution, to construct a new building on block No. 13, and not on the old county grounds, where the jail now stands. The citizens of Windom were very anxious to have the new court house erected down in the business portion of the city, so, on January 5, 1904, the county authorities exchanged the old court house square in block No. 23, for the present court house square in block No. 13. The city of Windom owned the block and simply exchanged it for the grounds contained in block 23, except that the county reserved eighty feet, including the ground where the jail was built and where it still stands.

In 1904 the county sold bonds to the amount of fifty thousand dollars to the First National Bank of St. Paul, the bonds to draw four per cent interest. Later, it was found necessary to float thirty-five thousand dollars more in bonds with which to finish paying for the court house, making the

cost of the structure about eighty-five thousand dollars, besides the grading and other exterior improvements about the public square.

A contract was awarded to J. B. Nelson & Company, of Mankato, to build the structure for \$59,949.00, the contract being dated March 22, 1904. Thomas Walsh, of Albert Lea, was employed by the county as superintendent of construction. The record shows that August 11, 1905, the building was completed and the last payment made to contractors Nelson & Company and to the architects, Omeyer & Thori.

On April 25, 1906, the commissioners let the contract for grading the grounds about the court house to J. G. Redding, at his bid price of \$5,200. On October 29, 1907, the commissioners resolved to designate the east side of the court house as its front.

Concerning the material, the architecture and dedication of this, Cottonwood's present court house, it may be added that the building is one of the best planned and constructed in southern Minnesota. Its corner-stone was laid, with ceremonies, on July 12, 1901, at one o'clock in the afternoon, under direction of the Masonic fraternity. Senator Clapp made the oration. Judge Brown, who had served as judge fourteen years, also spoke. There was a picnic dinner, a ball game and excellent music. The corner-stone bears the following inscription: "Commissioners, David Ewert, Daniel C. Davis, Whalon Seeley, Peter Wiens, Engbert Heggerstrom, John A. Brown, auditor; David A. Stewart, attorney." The box in the stone contained a copy of the Bible, Masonic papers, a copy of each local county newspaper, a history of the county by D. A. Stuart, lists of county and village officials.

On November 3, 1905, the new court house was dedicated, in the midst of a large assembly, Governor Johnson uttering the dedicatory words in a masterly manner. The entire structure cost one hundred thousand dollars, including all interior finishings, with the marble wainscoating, beautifully decorated dome and court room.

COUNTY JAIL.

In July, 1891, it was resolved at a meeting of the county commissioners to provide the county with a suitable jail and sheriff's house, but the matter dragged along until January 6, 1898, when it was again ordered that plans and specifications for a jail and sheriff's residence, said jail to have a separate cell for women prisoners, be procured. They were submitted to and accepted by the commissioners at a later date. The specifications called for Kasota

pink stone and Menominee sand-moulded brick as the material from which the main building should be constructed. Fred C. Molander was awarded the contract for doing the structural work for \$5,875. The cell work was let to an Ohio firm at \$2,147; the heating plant cost \$445 and was let to Pond & Hasey Company. H. M. Goss was appointed as superintendent of construction of this building, which is the one still standing at the south side of the park overlooking the Des Moines river, which flows just beneath the abrupt bluff at that point.

The county leased one cell in the new jail to the village of Windom at fifty dollars per year, and the village was to keep the bedding, etc., in a good and sanitary condition.

CARING FOR THE POOR.

Up to 1887 Cottonwood county owned no county farm or house at which the unfortunate poor might be cared for, but these people were cared for at county and township expense, in the various townships of the county, the county hiring some one to keep and look after them at a fixed price per week or month. But, on February 15, 1887, the county commissioners purchased of M. Milford, land in section 10, township 105, range 36 west, for the sum of \$1,700. On April 24, 1887, a committee was appointed to secure plans and specifications for building a poor house on the land just mentioned. It was not to cost in excess of \$1,800. On February 17, 1888, it was ordered to make an addition of a one-story wing, sixteen by twenty feet in size. After this, the county's poor were cared for on this farm, which is in Great Bend township. The auditor's record of the institution in December, 1890, gives the following items: Number of inmates in poor house January 1, 1890, six; three were on hand the year before and three came that year; loss of inmates in two years last past, two; number remaining in the institution, December 31, 1890, four. Acres of land in poor farm, one hundred and sixty; net expenses of poor farm, \$1,080. It was not found a self-sustaining proposition and, as the number of paupers was very small in the county, it was decided by the county commissioners at their meeting held in February, 1891, to rent out the farm, which was done, and the county paid a stipulated price for keeping the paupers.

Under a recent law of the state of Minnesota, any county has the right to submit to a vote of the people whether or not the poor shall be kept by the county at large or on the township plan. This was left to the voter of Cottonwood county at the general election in the autumn of 1906, when the

vote stood, five hundred and thirty-eight in favor of changing to the "township plan" and three hundred and forty-two votes in favor of continuing the old county plan. The petition which brought this matter before the people at that 1906 election was filed on September 25, 1906, and was largely circulated by Silas Reisdorph, of Springfield township. It works well in this county and the expense has not been over one-half the amount it was under the old county plan of caring for the paupers. There is also a wise provision in the statute by which the county at large pays all bills over three hundred dollars contracted in keeping the poor in any one township or village.

The poor farm was sold on March 11, 1903, to John S. Schillinger, of Jackson county, for the sum of \$7,500—a high figure then, but not half its present value; yet, it only cost the county \$1,700 when it was first purchased in 1887.

RUSSIAN THISTLE PEST.

Cottonwood county, in common with many of the western counties in Minnesota, was wonderfully cursed in the nineties with the Russian thistle, which drifted down with the winds from the northwest part of the state and especially from the Dakotas, where in some instances this weed almost depopulated the county in which it had gotten so strong a foothold. It is said these weeds got into this country by the Russian immigrants bringing the seed here to sow for sheep-feeding purposes, as it is used to quite an extent for that purpose in Russia. It has proven as bad a curse as the English sparrow has to the cities and villages of the United States.

So thick had the growth of the thistles become in this county in July, 1896, that the board of county commissioners, on resolution, ordered, "That after the expiration of the first day of September all Russian thistles standing or growing in the county of Cottonwood are required to be destroyed by public authority in accordance to law." Later, a tax was added to cover the expense of a "weed agent," whose duty was to enforce the law and see that all weeds were cut and the expense charged up to the landowner, if not previously seen to as directed.

At the session of the board in July, 1897, the following was the record: "Whereas, the well-known Russian thistle has made its appearance again and is to be found growing in Cottonwood county. Therefore, pursuant to the statutes in such cases made and provided, and at a meeting of the board of county commissioners of said county held on the 13th day of July, 1897, it is resolved, by said board of county commissioners, that sixty-four

days from and after this date be the time fixed in which all persons, companies or corporations owning or occupying land within said county are required to destroy all Russian thistles found growing or standing on the said lands according to the statutes in such cases made and provided."

MISCELLANEOUS PROCEEDINGS.

In July, 1901, the county commissioners ordered that a bounty of fifteen dollars be paid for each male wolf killed within this county; also that the sum of twenty dollars should be allowed for each female wolf that should be killed in the county.

In 1902 the bond required to be put up by the county treasurer was forty thousand dollars, the county to pay the fees exacted by the bonding or surity companies. If the bonds were of a personal nature, then sixty thousand dollars were required at the hands of the treasurer as his bond. In 1913 the bond was fixed at fifty thousand dollars.

COUNTY OFFICERS' FEES IN 1909.

In 1909 the fees of the various county officials were as follows: Sheriff, \$1,579; clerk of the court, \$1,434; court commissioner, \$10.00; coroner, \$5.60; register of deeds, \$2,340.06; superintendent of schools, \$1,091.15; auditor, \$2,117 75; judge of probate, \$1,062; treasurer, \$2,118.83; surveyor, \$51.51; county attorney, \$1,200.

TAX LEVY FOR 1916-17.

The tax levy for 1916-17 is as follows: County revenue, \$30,000; county road and bridge, \$30,000; county bond and interest, \$2,000; county sinking fund, \$3,000; tubercular sanitarium, \$1,000; total, \$66,000.

COUNTY FINANCES, JULY 1, 1916.

According to the county auditor's books, on the first day of July, 1916, after an examination of the books of the county treasurer, D. C. Davis, the following showing was made:

Cash in drawer -----	\$45.37
Cash items, checks, etc. -----	207.61
Deposited with Farmers State Bank, Windom----	9,604.00

Deposited First National Bank, Windom -----	16,198.01
Deposited Windom National Bank -----	13,693.56
Deposited First State Bank, Mountain Lake----	10,996.53
Deposited First National Bank, Mountain Lake--	7,146.31
Deposited State Bank of Jeffers -----	7,176.08
Deposited State Bank of Storden -----	5,709.59
Deposited First National Bank, Westbrook -----	5,566.99
Deposited Citizens State Bank, Westbrook -----	7,194.21
Deposited State Bank, Bingham Lake -----	3,207.22
Deposited Farmers Bank, Jeffers -----	4,663.79
Deposited Farmers State Bank, Storden -----	1,383.20
Time certificates -----	80,741.30

Total -----	\$173,534.38
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COUNTY OFFICIALS IN 1916.

S. A. Brown, auditor; D. C. Davis, treasurer; S. J. Fering, register of deeds; P. G. Neufeld, clerk of court; A. W. Annes, judge of probate; O. G. Peterson, sheriff; O. J. Finstad, county attorney; A. R. Iverson, superintendent of schools; L. C. Churchill, court commissioner; Dr. L. L. Sogge, coroner; A. S. Gove, surveyor; Ole Osland, H. R. Pietz, J. A. Brown, N. P. Minion, J. I. Bargen, county commissioner.

COUNTY AND STATE ROADS.

During the last few years the "good roads" problem in Minnesota has absorbed the minds of many interested in such internal improvements and now this state is not behind her sister commonwealths in the building of good wagon roads within her borders, much money and time having of late years being judiciously expended for such needful improvements.

In 1912 the state made provisions for aiding in the construction of what it terms "state roads." In this county one such road is already laid out and partly worked, from Comfrey, on the north line, to Mountain Lake village, thence to Bingham Lake, on to Windom, from which point it goes to Jeffers, Storden and Westbrook. Another, known as the Walnut Grove and Dundee road, is laid partly within this county. Some of this state road system has already been graveled, and much is being accomplished in the way

of making suitable, permanent culverts and bringing the road to a good grade.

The state appropriates from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars annually for these roads in Cottonwood county, while the county itself aids materially in the laudable enterprise. Ere long the county will have excellent highways in all of its townships, and be possessed of many miles of state road besides.

CHAPTER V.

COUNTY AND STATE REPRESENTATION.

PRESIDENTIAL VOTE IN COTTONWOOD COUNTY.

The first presidential campaign in which Cottonwood county took part was that of 1872, when U. S. Grant and Horace Greeley were opposing candidates. The following is the vote in this county for that and every subsequent election to the present date:

- 1872—U. S. Grant (Rep.), 437; Horace Greeley (Liberal-Dem.), 47.
1876—Rutherford B. Hayes (Rep.), 387; Samuel J. Tilden (Dem.), 76.
1880—James A. Garfield (Rep.), 717; W. S. Hancock (Dem.), 128.
1884—James G. Blaine (Rep.), 599; Grover Cleveland (Dem.), 137;
John P. St. John (Prohib.), 34; B. F. Butler (Greenback), 26.
1888—Benjamin Harrison (Rep.), 760; Grover Cleveland (Dem.),
273; Fisk (Prohib.), 90.
1892—Benjamin Harrison (Rep.), 727; Grover Cleveland (Dem.),
201; James B. Weaver (Pop.), 769.
1896—William McKinley (Rep.), 1,242; W. J. Bryan (Dem.), 810;
Joshua Levering (Prohib.), 43.
1900—William McKinley (Rep.), 1,368; W. J. Bryan (Dem.), 547;
J. G. Woolley (Prohib.), 73.
1904—Theodore Roosevelt (Rep.), 1,541; Alton B. Parker (Dem.),
214.
1908—William H. Taft (Rep.), 1,240; W. J. Bryan (Dem.), 526;
E. W. Chafin (Prohib.), 98.
1912—William H. Taft (Rep.), 325; Theodore Roosevelt (Prog.),
1,079; Woodrow Wilson (Dem.), 511.

STATE SENATORS.

The following have served as state senators from the districts in which Cottonwood county has been situated since the organization of the county: J. A. Latimer, 1870; C. W. Thompson, 1871; (apportionment of 1871)

William D. Rice, 1872; William D. Rice, 1873; E. P. Freeman, 1874; E. P. Freeman, 1875; I. P. Durfee, 1876; I. P. Durfee, 1877; C. H. Smith, 1878; A. D. Perkins, 1879; A. D. Perkins, 1881; (apportionment of 1881) George Knudson, 1883; George Knudson, 1885; John Clark, 1887; John Clark, 1889; (apportionment of 1889) Erick Sevatson, 1891; Erick Sevatson, 1893; Erick Sevatson, 1895; Erick Sevatson, 1897; (apportionment of 1897) E. J. Meilicke, 1899; E. J. Meilicke, 1901; W. A. Smith, 1903; W. A. Smith, 1905; H. E. Hanson, 1907; H. E. Hanson, 1909; A. C. Olson, 1911; A. C. Olson, 1913; (apportionment of 1913) C. W. Gillam, 1915.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

The members of the Lower House representing Cottonwood county have been: (Apportionment of 1871) E. Berry, 1872; J. W. Seager, 1873; J. F. Daniels, 1874; Charles F. Crosby, E. Berry, 1875; J. A. Everett, Lee Hesley, W. H. Mellen, 1876; Dr. H. N. Rice, Lee Hensley, C. H. Smith, 1877; Frank A. Day, L. H. Bishop, Alex. Fiddes, 1878; M. E. L. Shanks, T. Lambert, P. J. Kniss, 1879; J. A. Armstrong, W. D. Rice, P. Kniss, 1881; (apportionment of 1881) S. Blackman, 1883; S. Blackman, 1885; W. R. Estea, 1887; W. R. Estea, 1889; (apportionment of 1889) Henry F. Tucker, 1891; John Paulson, 1893; E. J. Meilicke, 1895; George M. Laing, 1897; (apportionment of 1897) D. L. Riley, John E. Johnson, 1899; D. L. Riley, W. A. Potter, 1901; A. M. Schroeder, J. D. Schroeder, 1903; L. O. Tiegen, A. D. Palmer, 1905; Charles Winzer, R. H. Jefferson, 1907; John Baldwin, D. A. Stuart, 1909; Henry Untiedt, Elias Warner, 1911; D. Crawford, Elias Warner, 1913; (apportionment of 1913) George W. Grant and Lars Tiegen, 1915.

COUNTY AUDITORS.

The first county auditor of Cottonwood county was Charles Chamberlain, who served until 1879; then followed S. M. Espey, 1879 to 1889; George F. Robison, 1889 to 1891; John A. Brown, 1891 to 1893; Herman Tiechroew, 1893 to 1899; Matt Miller, 1899 to 1901; John A. Brown, 1901 to 1911; E. H. Klock, 1911 to 1915; S. A. Brown, 1915 and still serving.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

The first county treasurer was L. L. Miner, succeeded by Eli A. Stedman, who served until 1879; C. H. Smith, 1879 to 1881; J. N. McGregor,

1881 to 1887; H. A. Cone, 1887 to 1895; Matthias Miller, 1895 to 1897; James S. Kibbey, 1897 to 1905; Matthias Miller, 1905 to 1911; D. C. Davis, 1911 to present date.

SHERIFFS.

The first sheriff of the county was Hosea Eastgate, followed by Charles White, who served until the election of S. B. Stedman, who served from 1879 to 1883; W. W. Barlow, 1883 to 1891; Frank White, 1891 to 1893; W. W. Barlow, 1893 to 1895; John H. Ness, 1895 to 1903; Ed. J. Severson, 1903 to 1911; D. A. Lahart, 1911 to 1913; O. G. Peterson, 1913 and still in office.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

The first register of deeds for this county was Ezra Winslow, followed by H. A. Cone in 1879; F. Riis, 1879 to 1883; C. H. Anderson, 1883 to 1889; Henry E. Hanson, 1889 to 1907; S. J. Fering, 1907 to present date.

PROBATE JUDGES.

Tabor Imus was the first judge of probate, succeeded by Emory Clark and A. D. Perkins; J. G. Redding, 1879 to 1883; G. M. Laing, 1883 to 1897; Thomas S. Brown, 1897 to 1913; A. W. Annes, 1913 to present date.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

- 1870—S. B. Stedman, L. L. Miner, Hogan Anderson.
- 1871—S. B. Stedman, R. P. Mathews, Hogan Anderson.
- 1872—S. B. Stedman, Hogan Anderson, George F. Robison.
- 1873—George A. Purdy, George F. Robison, Hogan Anderson.
- 1874—George A. Purdy, F. Riis, George F. Robison.
- 1875—George A. Purdy, F. Riis, A. A. Soule.
- 1876—David Goss, F. Riis, A. A. Soule.
- 1877—David Goss, W. L. Taylor, H. Anderson.
- 1878—David Goss, D. C. Davis, Hogan Anderson.
- 1879—David H. Anderson, H. M. McGaughey, D. C. Davis.
- 1880—H. M. McGaughey, T. Ellingson, D. C. Davis.
- 1881—H. M. McGaughey, T. Ellingson, H. M. Goss.
- 1882—John Clark, H. M. Goss, C. Mead, M. T. DeWolf.

1883—John Clark, H. M. F. Goss, T. Ellingson, C. Mead, M. T. DeWolf.

1884—M. T. DeWolf, C. Mead, T. Ellington, Charles Chadderdon.

1885—Charles Chadderdon, T. Ellingson, A. Wigton, J. S. Naramore.

1886—J. S. Naramore, Charles Chadderdon, C. Mead, A. Wigton.

1887—Charles Chadderdon, C. Mead, A. Wigton, M. T. DeWolf, Chris. Brand.

1888—Charles Chadderdon, A. Wigton, C. Mead, C. Brand, M. T. DeWolf.

1889—M. T. DeWolf, Charles Chadderdon, C. Mead, A. Wigton, C. Brand.

1890—Ole Christophson, C. Mead, R. Jenness, J. F. Grant, H. Dickman.

1891—D. C. Davis, Lars Swenson, C. Mead, R. Jenness, H. Dickman.

1892—D. C. Davis, Lars Swenson, E. D. Mooers, Lars Swenson, C. Mead.

1893—D. C. Davis, H. M. Goss, E. D. Mooers, Lars Swenson, C. Mead.

1894—E. D. Mooers, H. M. Goss, Lars Swenson, W. D. Seely, D. P. Langley.

1895—E. D. Mooers, H. M. Goss, Lars Swenson, W. D. Seely, D. P. Langley.

1897—Lars Swenson, W. D. Seely, D. C. Davis, D. P. Langley and H. M. Goss.

1899—Lars Swenson, W. D. Seely, D. C. Davis, D. P. Langley, D. Ewert.

1901—Lars Swenson, W. D. Seely, D. C. Davis, D. P. Langley, David Ewert.

1903—W. D. Seely, D. C. Davis, Peter Wiens, David Ewert.

1905—E. E. Heggerston, W. D. Seely, J. F. French, Peter Wiens, David Ewert.

1907—E. E. Heggerston, B. Johnson, J. F. French, N. P. Minion.

1909—Ole Osland, Bernt Johnson, J. F. French, N. P. Minion and Jacob I. Bergen.

1911—Ole Osland, H. R. Pietz, J. F. French, N. P. Minion and Jacob Larson.

1913—Ole Osland, H. R. Pietz, J. A. Brown, N. P. Minion and J. I. Bergen.

CHAPTER VI.

TOWNSHIPS OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY.

Cottonwood county is sub-divided into eighteen civil township, each having a local government of its own, but all working in harmony with the general county government plan.

Germantown comprises congressional township 108, range 36, west.

Highwater comprises congressional township 108, range 37, west.

Ann comprises congressional township 108, range 38, west.

Selma comprises congressional township 107, range 34, west.

Delton comprises congressional township 107, range 35, west.

Amboy comprises congressional township 107, range 36, west.

Storden comprises congressional township 107, range 37, west.

Westbrook comprises congressional township 107, range 38, west.

Midway comprises congressional township 106, range 34, west.

Carson comprises congressional township 106, range 35, west.

Dale comprises congressional township 106, range 36, west.

Amo comprises congressional township 106, range 37, west.

Rose Hill comprises congressional township 106, range 38, west.

Mountain Lake comprises congressional township 105, range 34, west.

Lakeside comprises congressional township 105, range 35, west.

Great Bend comprises congressional township 105, range 36, west.

Springfield comprises congressional township 105, range 37, west.

Southbrook comprises congressional township 105, range 38, west.

GERMANTOWN TOWNSHIP.

This is the eastern township of the three northern townships of the county, being described as township 108, range 36, west. It is bounded on the north by Redwood county, on the east by Brown county, on the south by Amboy township, Cottonwood county, and on the west by Highwater township. Its surface is somewhat cut up by numerous prairie creeks or runs, which afford splendid drainage, and at the same time make the general scenery one of rare beauty. The soil in common with other parts of this county is not lacking in the features and elements which yield abundant

harvests. The chapter on Geology treats in detail of the soil, surface and minerals of this township.

The population at various periods is as follows: In 1895 it had 488; in 1900 it had 512 and in 1910 it was placed at 522 by the United States census returns.

ORGANIZATION.

Germantown was organized into a separate civil township in January, 1874, by a petition presented by a majority of the voters in township 108, range 36. The first township meeting and election for officers was fixed at the house of August Brand on January 24, 1874.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

To have been an early settler in Germantown township was to be counted among the heroic band of men and women who braved many hardships and saw the real "rough side of life," in Cottonwood county. Many of the pioneers have passed from earth. In many cases the lands they entered under either pre-emption or homestead act, have long since passed into the hands of strangers. Those who came later knew not of the privations and sacrifices made by the original settlers.

The following will give a brief record transcript of many who claimed land and actually settled in this township:

Wesley D. Sprague homesteaded, June 3, 1878, at the New Ulm land office the northwest quarter of section 2. U. S. Grant, President, signed his patent papers.

Gottlieb Scheef, claimed a homestead, May 7, 1879, the southeast quarter of section 30, and his patent was signed by President R. B. Hayes.

Caroline Retz claimed as her homestead right, land in the west half of the northwest quarter of section 6, this township. It was entered at the land office at New Ulm and the patent is dated March 13, 1879, and is signed by President Hayes.

Henry Graling homesteaded land in the northwest quarter of section 30. The patent bears date of February 6, 1881, and is signed by President Hayes. **The entry was effected at the land office at New Ulm.**

August Block claimed land as a homestead right in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 8; the patent is dated February 10, 1881, and is signed by President Hayes. The entry was made at the land office at New Ulm.

John F. Borsach homesteaded land in the south half of the southwest quarter of section 6. It was entered at the land office at New Ulm, and the patent is signed by President Hayes and bears date of December 30, 1879.

Henry Moll homesteaded land in the southeast quarter of section 24. His patent is dated September 10, 1880, and was signed by President Hayes, but the entry was made at the land office at New Ulm.

Ferdinand Heller homesteaded land in the southeast quarter of section 34. The date of his patent is February 10, 1881, and is signed by President Hayes; the land was secured at the New Ulm land office.

Herman Luck homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 34 at the land office at New Ulm, his patent being issued by President Hayes and bears the date of June 15, 1880.

Christine Werner homesteaded the west half of the northeast quarter of section 4, at the land office at New Ulm; her patent was issued and signed by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

George Werner homesteaded the west half of the northeast quarter of section 6; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and patented to him by President Hayes, December 30, 1879.

Daniel Werner homesteaded the east half of the northwest quarter of section 6; the same being entered at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Hayes, December 30, 1879.

Frederick Juhnke, at the New Ulm land office entered as a homestead the south half of the southeast quarter of section 8, the same was patented by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Herman Ohme homesteaded the west half of the northeast quarter of section 8, the same being entered at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Charles Tesmer at the land office at New Ulm entered as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 4; it was patented by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

John Surratt homesteaded the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 32, at the land office at Worthington and the same was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, July 10, 1885.

Daniel Raddatz at the Tracy land office entered as his homestead the southeast quarter of section 22; it was patented by President Chester A. Arthur, November 1, 1881.

William R. Divine homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 12 at the land office at New Ulm and had the same patented to him by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

Frederick Schroter claimed a homestead in the southwest quarter of section 20, the same being entered at the land office at Tracy and patented by President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

Christian Nerget entered the southeast quarter of section 20, at the land office at New Ulm, and later obtained his patent from President Hayes, who signed same on February 10, 1881.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Isaac Davis, at the New Ulm land office entered the east half of the southwest quarter of section 10. The patent was signed by President U. S. Grant, May 12, 1874.

George Werner entered the southeast quarter of section 32, at the Tracy land office, and his papers were signed by President Chester A. Arthur, May 15, 1884.

Valentine Bott entered the east half of the northwest quarter of section 10, at the Tracy land office and his final papers were signed by President Grover Cleveland, July 27, 1885.

Henry Essig entered the northwest quarter of section 24, at the Marshall land office and his papers were signed by President Harrison, November 15, 1892.

AMBOY TOWNSHIP.

Amboy township is one of the central townships in the county, being composed of congressional township 107, range 36, west. It is made up of thirty-six full sections, and is bounded on its north by Germantown, on the east by Delton, on the south by Dale and on the west by Storden township. Its surface, lakes and streams have already been covered in the chapter on Geology, hence need not be referred to here. Of its schools and churches special chapters will treat, in general. To one who has recently visited this part of Cottonwood county, it goes without saying, that this has come to be a veritable garden spot, where corn and cream are king and queen. The branch line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad traverses the southern portion of the township, with a station at the sprightly village of Jeffers.

The population of Amboy township in 1895 was 443; in 1900 it was placed at 489 and according to the 1910 United States census it had decreased

to 437. The inhabitants are a sturdy, painstaking class of good citizens, many of whom are foreigners who came to our shores many years ago without much means, save strong bodies and determined wills, and with these they have forged to the front and today are among the most independent, prosperous and contented people within southern Minnesota.

ORGANIZATION.

This township was formed by act of the county commissioners at their meeting held on October 10, 1872, when township 107, range 36 west, was declared to be organized and the first election called to meet at the house of C. M. Bywater, and the judges of such election were, John H. Nelson, Peter A. Wheeler, Milo T. DeWolf, and Charles M. Bywater was named clerk.

FIRST SETTLERS.

The records show the following to have been the early homesteaders and also holders of pre-emption claims:

Moses DeWolf claimed as a homestead the southwest half of section 34, at the New Ulm land office, April 8, 1878, and the papers were signed by President U. S. Grant, the land being in what is now Amboy township.

Emery Cook, at the New Ulm land office, entered a homestead in the southwest quarter of section 36, May 29, 1878, the patent being signed by President R. B. Hayes.

Henry C. McLean claimed land in the southeast of section 2, at the New Ulm land office, and his patent was signed by President U. S. Grant, February 27, 1879.

David W. Potter homesteaded land in the southwest quarter of section 10; his patent is dated February 20, 1881, and was signed by President Chester A. Arthur. It was entered at the New Ulm land office.

George W. Jones homesteaded land in the southwest quarter of section 32, and his patent is dated March 13, 1879, and is signed by President Hayes; this homestead was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

John A. Kelley homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 26; his patent for same bears date June 24, 1878, and is signed by President Hayes. The land was secured through the land office at New Ulm.

Peter A. Wheeler homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 14, at the land office at New Ulm, and had the same patented by President U. S. Grant, December 20, 1875.

Adolph M. Scott homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 18, at the land office at Tracy, and had the same patented to him by President Grover Cleveland, January 9, 1886.

John Wright homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 26, at the New Ulm land office and the same was patented by President U. S. Grant June 20, 1874.

Wilber Potter homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 10, at the land office at Tracy, and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Agnes E. Safley entered land in the north half of the southeast quarter of section 12, and the patent was signed by President Benjamin Harrison, March 1, 1892; the land office was at Marshall.

John Knowles, at the Tracy land office, entered the northeast quarter of section 20, and signed by President Grover Cleveland, June 5, 1888.

Esther Dickerson, at the Marshall land office, entered the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2, and the final papers were signed by President Benjamin Harrison, April 24, 1891.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERS.

Jeffers is situated in section 20, township 107, range 36, west, and was platted by the Inter-State Land Company, September 19, 1899. In so far as the early history of Jeffers is concerned, there is not a great deal to be said. The site that is now occupied by the village was homesteaded by George Jeffers and Wesley Stoddard over forty years ago. When the Currie branch of the Omaha railroad was surveyed through the county, Mr. Whited, representing a townsite company, saw great possibilities in locating a village at this place. So the beautiful farms or parts of, belonging to the men mentioned above, were transformed into town lots and sold at auction. The village sprung up like a mushroom over night and soon **there were mechanics and tradesmen of all kinds on the ground.**

Among the first on the ground to put up houses and open up for business were Mr. Loomis and A. A. Faust; Mr. Faust's building was where the co-operative store now stands. J. J. Duroe put up a building and started a bank in the lumber yard. In the spring of 1900 Cowan & Castledine built a business house on the site of the restaurant and Louie Dustin started a

drug store the same spring. L. P. Dolliff and Company installed their lumber yard in the spring of 1899, as did the Hayes-Lucas Lumber Company. The Peary elevator was also put up in 1899. The early professional men were Dr. W. N. Theissen and Attorney E. M. Duroe.

Jeffers has experienced two fires, each of which was rather serious. The more destructive one occurred in May, 1911, destroying four large buildings and causing an unusually heavy loss. The first fire happened in August, 1902, starting in the hotel which was consumed as were the buildings owned by A. A. Faust and Nels Anderson. The total loss was about twenty-one thousand dollars.

The first postoffice in Amboy township was known as the Red Rock postoffice and was located on the farm of D. M. Fairbairn, who was also the postmaster. After Jeffers became a village the Red Rock office was discontinued and the postoffice took on the name of the village. The first postmaster appointed to the Jeffers office was A. A. Faust. He died before his term expired and J. O. Querna was chosen to fill out the unexpired term. Miss Ida Faust, the daughter of A. A. Faust, received the next appointment and as Mrs. Ida Mertens succeeded herself. The present postmaster is Mr. J. H. Tofflemire. Through attention to business and with the help of appreciative patrons, he has brought the receipts of the office up to the point where it will soon graduate to the third class. The postal receipts for the last fiscal year amounted to two thousand one hundred and eleven dollars and seventy-four cents, exclusive of money orders. The money orders for June, 1916, amounted to one thousand and six dollars and ninety-six cents. A rural route, with Bert A. Crist, was established on October 15, 1904; he is still serving in that capacity.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Jeffers became an incorporated village on September 28, 1899. The first election placed in office the following men. President, L. P. Dustin; recorder, Lewis E. Streater; trustees, C. G. Fredrieson, A. W. Binger, A. A. Faust. The present officers include the following: President, William A. Potter; trustees, E. F. Schmotzer, H. C. Schoper and J. M. Jackson; treasurer, C. O. Castledine; clerk, Charles Grabert; justice, E. D. Helder. The following is a list of all the presidents who have served to date: L. G. Dustin, A. A. Faust (pro tem), H. H. Potter, L. A. Duroe, W. Gleason, S. M. Pratt, M. C. Vold, E. J. Viall, A. W. Mertens and W. A. Potter.

At present the village is lighted with gas lanterns, but there is a move-

ment on foot to install an electric system. The village is also badly in need of water-works, as now they have no ample means of fire protection except chemical engines. With these things added, the village would be as modern as any in the county. The village has about three miles of cement walks and building more all the time. The present indebtedness is about one thousand five hundred dollars.

Jeffers, the hub of Cottonwood county, is a beautiful, hustling little town of six hundred population, located on the Currie branch of the Omaha railroad, one hundred and fifty miles from the Twin Cities and sixteen miles from Windom, the county seat. It is one of the busiest trading centers in the state, according to size. It is located in the heart of the beautiful, rolling plains of southern Minnesota. Its business people are up-to-date, progressive, courteous and accommodating. The farmers of the community are up to the times in their farming methods, and rank high in the citizenship of the community. Five years ago, good land could be procured in this community at sixty dollars per acre, while most land is now worth around one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. Jeffers has a modern system of schools, fine churches and strong secret societies, all of which will be treated in their respective chapters.

CREAMERY.

Jeffers is supplied with a prosperous and enterprising creamery under the management of H. E. Nimitz. It is regarded as the most important enterprise of the town and it is doubted if any one business concern turns over as much money to the farmers as the creamery. The creamery has about one hundred and forty patrons, with an average monthly output of three thousand pounds of butter-fat per month. They supply the local market with butter and ship the remainder to the markets in Chicago and New York.

COMMERCIAL FACTORS IN 1916.

In 1916 the business interests of Jeffers were represented by the following:

Auto garage—Iverson & Harrison.

Banks—State Bank, Farmers State Bank.

Barber—Charles Grabert.

Blacksmiths—Krame M. Michiel, George J. Koess.

Creamery—H. E. Nimitz.

Confectionery—L. J. Bastian.

Druggist—F. J. Armantrout.

Elevator—Benson Grain Company, Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company.

General dealers—Jeffers Co-operative Company, Thorne & Dustin, Malachi Vold.

Harness dealer—John M. Jackson.

Hotel—The Jeffers, The Leader.

Hardware dealer—L. A. Duroe.

Ice dealer—Charles Burmeister & Son.

Jeweler—F. J. Armantrout.

Livery—David E. Noble.

Lumber dealer—L. P. Dolliff and Company, Haynes-Lucas Lumber Company.

Milliner—Olga B. Grenwatz.

Meat market—H. C. Schoper.

Moving picture show—M. B. Fish.

Newspaper—*The Review*, E. F. Schmotzer, proprietor.

Physician—George P. Panzer.

Produce dealer—City Produce Market.

Restaurant—W. A. Sargent, L. J. Bastian.

Real estate dealer—The Jeffers Land Company, W. H. Dhabolt.

Shoemaker—Edward D. Helder.

Undertaker—Peter Aune.

AMO TOWNSHIP.

Amo township comprises all of congressional township 106, range 37, west. It is situated south of Storden township, west of Dale, north of Springfield and east of Rose Hill township. Its thirty-six sections contain some of the finest land in southern Minnesota. It is settled by an industrious class of citizens, mostly of foreign birth, who have made a prairie wilderness blossom like the rose. The principal lake within the township is Lake Augusta. With the passing of years much of the former swampy land has been transformed into beautiful pastures. The schools and churches of the township are mentioned at length in other chapters of this volume.

The population in 1895 was 296; in 1900 it was 385, and according to the census taken by the United States in 1910, the township contained a population of 395.

There are no towns or villages within this township and it is purely an agricultural and dairy section, where the people vie one with another in making substantial improvements and beautifying their places. Many of the old homesteads of the county were located in Amo and have long years since come to be valuable farms. The hundreds of artificial groves seen here and there over this township, lend a charm once seen never to be forgotten. It was the wisdom and foresight of the pioneer band of settlers, which caused to be planted out the cottonwood, the elm, the ash, the willow and the maple trees, which today weave in the winds with their branches extending far and wide, as so many living, growing monuments to those hardy pioneers who set them out. These groves have for years provided fire-wood for the farmer and made an excellent wind-break in winter time, as well as a cooling retreat in the hot summer months.

ORGANIZATION.

Amo was formed as a civil township of Cottonwood county in February, 1873, at a special meeting of the board of county commissioners. It was effected through a petition signed by the legal voters of township 108, ranges 37 and 38, asking that they be set off as a separate civil township, to be known as Amo, the territory formerly being included in Westbrook township. The first election was held March 4, 1873, at the school house in district No. 4, in township 108, range 37, west.

The record shows that it was first named "Georgetown," but soon changed. It is believed that W. H. Benbow named it "Amo," which in Latin means "I love."

FIRST SETTLERS AND LAND ENTRIES.

The books of the register of deeds at the court house at Windom, show the following facts concerning the original land entries, homesteads and pre-emptions, in Amo township:

Jemima Benbow obtained a homestead in the west half of the north-west quarter of section 34; it was filed at the land office at Tracy and finally patented by President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

John Wilford, an early pioneer in Minnesota, had patented to him a homestead in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 26, from the Worthington land office and it bore the signature of President U. S. Grant.

William G. Shafer homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 26, at the Jackson land office, the papers being signed by President Grant.

Gilman S. Redding patented at the Worthington land office, February 22, 1879, the east half of the northeast quarter of section 25, the same bears the name of President Rutherford B. Hayes.

Presbury W. Moore homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 34, May 11, 1879, under the signature of President Rutherford B. Hayes.

James A. Moore claimed the northwest quarter of section 26, at the Worthington land office, April 15, 1879, signed by President U. S. Grant.

Elias N. Peterson homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 12, on December 18, 1879, at the Worthington land office, the same being signed by President Grant.

David Pratt claimed, as a homestead, the north half of the southeast quarter of section 8, township 106, range 37, west. The date was October 14, 1879, and the patent was signed by President Hayes.

Hiram S. Ellis homesteaded the east half of the southeast quarter of section 10, and the same was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur; the entry was effected at the land office at New Ulm, and the date of patent was June 20, 1882.

Francis T. Seely homesteaded the south half of the northeast quarter of section 32; it was filed at the land office at Tracy and patented March 1, 1883, with the signature of President Chester A. Arthur attached.

Alonzo K. Peck claimed as his homestead the west half of the northwest quarter of section 24 and the west half of the southwest quarter of the same section. The patent was signed by President U. S. Grant September 5, 1874.

Philip Zorn homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 18; it was filed at the land office in Tracy and was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Martin Bales homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 26; it was originally filed at the land office at Tracy and patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur March 10, 1883.

William W. Barlow homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 26; his filing was made at the land office at New Ulm, while his patent was issued by President Chester A. Arthur, April 10, 1882.

Leslie Anderson claimed as his homestead right the northeast quarter of section 20. His filing was made at the land office at New Ulm, and his patent was signed by President Hayes, March 13, 1879.

Warren Hunt homesteaded the west half of the southwest quarter and north half of the southwest quarter of section 32; it was filed at the land office located at New Ulm and was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, February 13, 1882.

Orrin Silliman homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 14; also the north half of the southwest quarter of same section; he made his filing at the land office at Tracy and received his patent from President Chester A. Arthur, March 3, 1884.

William H. Bigalow homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 30, making his filing at the land office at New Ulm, receiving his final patent from President Chester A. Arthur, January 2, 1882.

Lewis L. Bigalow homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 30; his filing was made at the land office at Tracy and his patent was obtained from President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

Daniel C. Ashley homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 14, making his filing on same at the land office at New Ulm and receiving his patent from the hands of President Chester A. Arthur, June 20, 1882.

Ransom Bigalow claimed as his homestead right the southeast quarter of section 30, and received his patent from President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883. The entry was made at the land office at Tracy.

Orrin Polk Moore, at the Tracy land office entered a homestead situated in the east half of the southwest quarter and the south half of the northwest quarter of section 28, and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, May 24, 1884.

David Pratt at the land office located at Tracy entered the south half of the southwest quarter of section 8, and had the same finally patented to him by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

John C. Sprague, at the New Ulm land office, entered as his homestead the southwest of the northwest quarter of section 6, and the same was patented to him by President Hayes, February 20, 1880.

John F. Tabbert homesteaded the north half of the northeast quarter of section 6, the same was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, January 15, 1885.

Ebenezer Rice homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 8, at the land office located at Tracy and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Elbert D. Cole homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 4, at the land office then located at Tracy, and the same was later patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, October 1, 1883.

Peder C. Jensen homesteaded at Tracy, the south half of the northeast quarter of section 28, the same being patented to him by President Grover C. Cleveland, May 20, 1885.

O. Scott Mead, at the land office at Tracy, entered the northwest quarter of section 34, and had it patented by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

George Chapman at the New Ulm land office entered as a homestead the east half of the northeast quarter of section 26, and had it patented June 20, 1882, by President Chester A. Arthur.

PREF-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Orrin P. Moore at the New Ulm land office, entered a tract of land described as the west half of the southeast quarter of section 28; the final papers were issued to him by President Hayes, who signed the same, January 10, 1879.

John W. Rice pre-empted land in this township in the northwest quarter of section 4; the final papers were signed by President Benjamin Harrison, January 5, 1892.

James E. Reynolds entered land in the New Ulm land office, described as the south half of the southeast quarter and the south half of the southwest quarter of section 22, the same being finally patented to him by President Hayes who signed the instrument, January 10, 1879.

John Robertson, at the land office at Marshall, entered the southeast quarter of section 8, the final papers were signed by President Roosevelt December 12, 1901.

ANN TOWNSHIP.

Ann civil township is the extreme northwestern township in Cottonwood county; it is six miles square, comprising congressional township 108, range 38 west. It is bounded on the north by Redwood county, on the east by Highwater township, this county, on the south by Westbrook township and on the west by Murray county.

It was originally a pure prairie country, but through the foresight and unrelenting toil of the settlers who first made settlement here, groves of elm, maple, cottonwood and other varieties of forest and shade trees were early planted out, and now they wave in all their growing beauty, affording a

beautiful cooling shade in mid-summer and in winter are appreciated by both man and beast for the wind-break they afford. These groves, here and there over the township, give it a look resembling a forest land, when in fact not a native tree was found growing by the first comers, but all have been planted as seed, seedlings or cuttings shipped in from abroad. Many of these trees now measure sixteen inches in diameter and tower up thirty and forty feet.

This township, as well as most all of the northern tier of townships, is settled largely by foreigners, who have made a fine agricultural section out of what in the seventies was but a prairie wilderness. The various census enumerations for this township show the following: In 1895 it had a population of 402; in 1900 there was 500 and according to the United States census returns in 1910, there was a population of 433.

ORGANIZATION.

Ann township was organized by the board of county commissioners at one of their regular meetings during the year 1876, as it does not appear of record in January, 1876, but does appear in the list of townships January 1, 1877.

EARLY LAND ENTRIES.

The records of the county show the following to have made homestead or other land entries, at some one of the various land offices in this state, and these men and women constituted the first settlers of Ann township:

Engbert E. Heggerston, at the New Ulm land office, entered as his homestead claim the northeast quarter of section 18; he received his patent from President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

Peder Pederson claimed as a homestead right the east half of the northeast quarter of section 8; it was filed at the land office at Tracy and was finally patented by President Chester A. Arthur, August 1, 1883.

Nels Knudson Dalen homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 14; it was filed at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Hayes, September 10, 1880.

Rasmus Hanson homesteaded the north half of the southeast quarter of section 22 of this township; the filing was at the land office at Tracy, and the patent was secured from President Chester A. Arthur, October 5, 1881.

John J. Alfson homesteaded the east half of the southeast quarter of

section 14; he filed at the land office at Tracy and secured his patent from President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

Kesta K. Helgeson, at the New Ulm land office filed on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 14, and as a homestead it was patented to him by President Hayes, September 10, 1880.

John J. Alfson homesteaded the west half of the southeast quarter of section 14, the same being filed at the land office at Tracy and his final papers were signed by President Chester A. Arthur, October 1, 1883.

Johannes Petersen homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 8; it was filed at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Hayes, February 6, 1881.

Ole O. Knudson homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 24, the entry being made at the land office at Tracy and the patent was issued by President Chester A. Arthur, July 5, 1885.

Ole Larson claimed a homestead from the land office at New Ulm, the same being the west half of the northwest quarter of section 6; it was patented to him by President James A. Garfield, May 3, 1881.

Ole John Anderson homesteaded the east half of the northeast quarter of section 12; it was filed on at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Chester A. Arthur, June 20, 1882.

Hans Ola Olsen, at the New Ulm land office, entered as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 6, and had it patented to him by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

John T. Holly claimed, as a homestead right, the northeast quarter of section 20, September 18, 1879, the patent issued by President Hayes, and the entry effected at the land office at New Ulm.

Mervin Waight homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 4, at the New Ulm office, December 7, 1878, the patent being signed by President Hayes.

Kittle Sanderson homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 14, the date of his patent being January 5, 1875, and is signed by President U. S. Grant, the entry being made at the land office at New Ulm.

Thomas Halvorson homesteaded the west half of the southwest quarter of section 12, the date of the patent being January 20, 1881, and was signed by President Hayes, the papers coming through the land office at New Ulm.

Rasmus Hanson homesteaded at the Tracy land office, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 2, the patent being signed May 3, 1881, by President James A. Garfield.

John M. Hanson homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 26, at the New Ulm land office, the patent being signed by President Chester A. Arthur, March 15, 1882.

Hogan Anderson homesteaded the west half of the southeast quarter of section 24, the patent being signed by President Hayes, March 20, 1878.

Andrew O. Anderson homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 24; it was filed at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Hans A. Nelson homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 26; his filing was made through the land office at New Ulm and he received his patent from President Chester A. Arthur, signed on November 1, 1881.

Thomas Hansen claimed, as his homestead right, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 2; his filing was made at the land office located then at New Ulm. His patent was received from President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Thomas Pool homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 24; it was filed at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Chester A. Arthur, June 25, 1882.

Apollos S. Yale homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 30; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Chester A. Arthur, June 20, 1882.

Gilbert Oleson homesteaded the north half of the southwest quarter of section 10, at the land office at Tracy and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, August 1, 1883.

T. B. Steen homesteaded the east half of the northeast quarter of section 6, at the land office at New Ulm, and the same was patented to him by President Hayes, December 30, 1879.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Gilbert A. Olson, at the New Ulm land office, had issued to him a pre-emption claim for the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 10, President U. S. Grant issuing the papers on May 20, 1874.

Ole John Anderson, at the land office at New Ulm, pre-empted the west half of the northeast quarter of section 28, the same being certified by President Hayes, June 24, 1878.

Ole Olson, at the Tracy land office, entered the south half of the southwest quarter of section 18, this township, and his papers were signed by President Chester A. Arthur, April 20, 1883.

Ingebret I. Toker, at the land office at New Ulm, pre-empted land in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 28, and the papers were signed by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Iver Nielson Moen, at the land office at New Ulm, pre-empted land in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 28, the papers being certified by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

CARSON TOWNSHIP.

Carson is one of the southeastern townships in Cottonwood county, and comprises all of congressional township 106, range 35, west, hence is six miles square. The chapter on geology in this volume treats of the soil, lakes and streams of this township. There were originally numerous ponds and prairie lakes, but for the most part these have been drained and their former beds are cultivated or used as pasture lands, the soil being very rich and deep—almost inexhaustible. Delft is a small hamlet in this township, a station point on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad, which runs through the southwestern part of the township, en route from Jeffers to Bingham lake.

The population of Carson township in 1895 was 655; in 1900 it was 623 and the United States census in 1910 gave it as having 672.

With the passing of years the land within this part of the county has materially improved, and since tiling and ditching have been so successfully carried out, the territory is almost all reclaimed from its former wet state to one of cultivation. The hundreds of prosperous homes observed on every hand are but an index as to what intelligent management and hard toil will do for a country. Lands have risen in value, until today there are few parts of Cottonwood county more sought after by home-seekers than Carson township.

ORGANIZATION.

This civil township was organized by the board of county commissioners at their meeting in July, 1871, when township 106, range 35, west was declared to be the civil township of Carson.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The records show the following persons to have entered lands, either under the homestead or pre-emption acts in this township:

William B. Walker claimed a homestead under the act of 1862, for the northwest quarter of section 2, the land was entered at the New Ulm land office, and the date was January 18, 1875; signed by President U. S. Grant.

Joseph McMurtrey claimed land at the New Ulm land office, in the south half of the northwest quarter and the north half of the southwest quarter of section 30. The patent was signed on January 18, 1879, by President Hayes.

Michael O. Keefe homesteaded land in the northeast quarter of section 2; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and was patented by President Hayes; signed on February 10, 1881.

William G. Furman homesteaded land in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 34 also in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the same section. It was patented by President Hayes on March 13, 1879; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

Frederick Carpenter homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 8; it was patented by President Hayes on February 10, 1881; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

Nathaniel P. Hoag homesteaded land in the southeast quarter of section 12, and the patent was signed by President Hayes, December 30, 1879; the entry was effected at the land office at New Ulm.

Marshal Chase claimed a homestead in the east half of the northeast quarter and in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 10. It was patented by President Hayes and by him signed on January 20, 1881. It was entered in the land office located at New Ulm.

Charles A. Gardner homesteaded land in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 32; it was patented by President Chester A. Arthur on June 12, 1882. It was secured at the land office located at New Ulm.

Daniel Griffin homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 12, at the land office at New Ulm; his patent was obtained at the hands of President Hayes and signed by him on February 10, 1882.

Klaas Dick homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter and the northwest of the southwest of section 22, at the land office at Tracy, and received his patent from President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Edwin Maxon at the New Ulm land office entered the south half of the southwest quarter of section 28 and received his patent on same from President Hayes, April 9, 1878.

Aaron Schofield homesteaded the north half of the southwest quarter of section 28; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and was patented by President Chester A. Arthur, June 20, 1882.

George S. Maxon homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 28 at

the Tracy land office and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, February 20, 1882.

Peter Wien homesteaded the east half of the northwest quarter of section 28, at the land office at Tracy, and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

Cornelius Hubert claimed the homestead situated in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 26, at the land office and had his patent finally issued to him for the same.

Jacob S. Neal homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 2, at the land office at Tracy, and had his patent granted him by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Henerich Quiring, at the Tracy land office entered a homestead in the east half of the northwest quarter of section 10; it was patented by President Chester A. Arthur, January 15, 1885.

Frank C. Mason homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 24, at the land office at New Ulm, and his patent was issued by President U. S. Grant, October 1, 1875.

William H. Leighton homesteaded the south half of the southwest quarter of section 34, at the land office at Tracy, and his patent was granted by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

George H. Smyth, at the New Ulm land office entered the southeast quarter of section 32, and his patent was granted by President Hayes, March 20, 1878.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Elizabeth Smith entered at the New Ulm land office, lot No. 3 in section 26, and received her patent from President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

Arthur Minnion selected south half of the northeast quarter of section 4, this township, and the same was patented to him by President Hayes, January 10, 1879.

William Minion pre-empted the north half of the southeast quarter of section 4, this township; his entry was made at New Ulm and his final papers were issued by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Edgar Hazen entered the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 10, President U. S. Grant signing the final papers, April 10, 1875.

Robert Minion, at the New Ulm land office, entered the southeast quarter of section 4, and had the same patented to him by President Hayes, May 15, 1880.

Peter C. Hiebert, at the Marshall land office, entered land in the north-

west quarter of the northwest quarter of section 34; the same was finally patented to him by President Benjamin Harrison, February 24, 1893.

Henry E. East entered land in the southeast quarter of section 28; it was entered at the land office at Marshall and his final papers were signed by President William McKinley, March 20, 1897.

Thomas J. Warren entered land in the north half of the northeast quarter of section 10; the entry was effected at the land office at Tracy and the final papers were signed by President Benjamin Harrison, January 18, 1890.

Oella P. Mason, at the New Ulm land office entered land in the tract known as lot No. 3, in section 24. President U. S. Grant signed the patent on May 15, 1876.

VILLAGE OF DELFT.

Delft is situated in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 18, township 106, range 35, west, and was platted by the Inter-State Land Company June 18, 1902.

Town plats of the village of Delft were filed in the office of the register of deeds on June 25, 1902, by the Inter-State Land Company, of which O. O. Whited was vice-president. The plat consisted of eleven blocks in the township of Delton. This was the place where the railroad and warehouse commission ordered the railroad company to put in a sidetrack, in response to the petition of the farmers, in order that they might put in an elevator. Not so very long after the elevator had been built the village had its first fire, which burned the farmers' elevator, the coal sheds and the railroad company's stockyards. All were rebuilt immediately after. At present the business of the village is chiefly in the hands of Jacob Rupp, who conducts a general store; John Rupp, who conducts a hardware store; and the Farmers Elevator Company, who buy and sell grain, have charge of the coal sheds and do a general implement business.

DALE TOWNSHIP.

Dale is one of the central townships in the county, and comprises all of congressional township 106, range 36, west, hence has thirty-six sections of land within its borders. It is south of Amboy township, west of Carson, north of Great Bend and east of Amo township.

When first discovered there was a beautiful chain of lakes in the central

eastern portion of this township. These were filled in their season with wild fowls and many fish abounded in their waters. With the settlement of the country, several of these lakes have been drained out and are now utilized for pasture and field purposes by the farmers who own the property. Some of the lakes are still intact and are highly prized by the citizens of the county. The educational interests of the township, as well as the churches, are all treated in special chapters relating to such subjects.

The population of Dale in 1895 was 367; in 1900 it was 455 and the census reports of the United States enumeration for 1910 showed a population of 483.

ORGANIZATION.

Dale became a separate civil township by act of the county board in March, 1872, from township 106, range 36, west and was to be bounded as follows: "Commencing at the northeast corner of township 106, range 36, thence south to the southeast corner of said township; thence west to the southwest corner of said township; thence north to the northwest corner of said township; thence east to the northeast corner of said township and place of beginning." The first election was held at the house of George W. Purdy, Saturday, March 30, 1872; the judges were: George W. Purdy, Charles White and L. E. Mace, with John A. Harvey, clerk.

SETTLEMENT.

Perhaps no better way of showing who the pioneer settlers in this township were, can be shown than to give a brief transcript of the original land entries, which is as follows:

Henry C. Cornell homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 2, March 12, 1878, at the New Ulm land office, the patent being signed by President U. S. Grant.

James H. Sharp claimed as a homestead the southeast quarter of section 14, in this township, March 21, 1878, the patent being signed by President Grant, and the entry was made at the New Ulm land office.

James E. Mace claimed as a homestead land in the west half of the southwest quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 12, at the New Ulm land office; the patent was signed by President Hayes, April 27, 1878.

Abram L. Miles homesteaded at the New Ulm land office, the north-

west quarter of section 24. President R. B. Hayes signing the patent, July 12, 1878.

James C. Brown homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 26, July 12, 1878, the same being signed by President Hayes; the entry was made at the New Ulm land office.

S. Alexander homesteaded land located in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10; it was patented to him on February 20, 1880, and was signed by President Hayes and secured through the land office at New Ulm.

James B. Rhoades homesteaded land in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 32. It was patented on October 20, 1880, and signed by President Hayes, being secured through the New Ulm land office.

Edwin S. Streator claimed land under the homestead act of 1862, in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 34; it was patented to him on November 3, 1876, and signed by President U. S. Grant; it was secured through the land office at Worthington.

Alfred Mosher homesteaded land in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 14; it was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur and dated June 20, 1882; it was secured through the land office at New Ulm.

David Goss homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 12, at the New Ulm land office, and received his patent from President Chester A. Arthur, June 20, 1882.

John Schnotyen, at the land office at Tracy, entered a homestead in the north half of the northeast quarter and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 6; it was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

Peter Schmith homestead the southwest quarter of section 6, at the Tracy land office and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, May 31, 1884.

William G. Douglass claimed, as his homestead, the north half of the southwest quarter of section 28, the date of patent filing is April 7, 1874, and it bears the signature of President U. S. Grant.

Joel R. Clark claimed, as a homestead, the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 34, the patent being signed by President U. S. Grant, October 22, 1878.

Joseph O. Miles, claimed a homestead in section 24, and his patent was filed on February 18, 1879, signed by President U. S. Grant.

Joseph R. Cornwell, homesteaded at the New Ulm land office, the northeast quarter of section 8, the patent being issued on September 17, 1879, and was signed by President Hayes.

College land was claimed at the land office at Washington by William Prentiss, the same being the southeast quarter of section 20. The date of filing was March 6, 1875, signed by President U. S. Grant.

Homer L. Jewitt homesteaded land in the south half of the southwest quarter of section 28; it was patented by President Hayes and signed on March 13, 1879; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

Daniel F. Rogers homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 34 at the Tracy land office and had the patent to the same issued to him by President Chester A. Arthur, May 10, 1883.

Valentine Pfremmer homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 6, at the land office at Tracy and had his patent granted him by President Chester A. Arthur, May 31, 1884.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

George A. Purdy, at the New Ulm land office, pre-empted the odd lots in section 28, at the land office at New Ulm, and had his papers signed by President U. S. Grant, May 26, 1874.

Peter O. Arvold at the Worthington land office pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 8, the papers being signed by President U. S. Grant, January 6, 1876.

Jacob P. Epp, at the Marshall land office, claimed the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 24; the same was signed by President William McKinley, March 20, 1897.

Aaron G. Laing, at the New Ulm land office, pre-empted the south half of the northwest quarter of section 2, the papers being signed by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

George P. Jeffers pre-empted the lot known as No. 6 in section 22, at the Tracy land office, the papers being signed by President Benjamin Harrison, January 18, 1890.

Frank C. Bell pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 20, at the New Ulm office, the papers being finally issued by President Hayes.

James H. Wilson pre-empted the part of section 22, known as lot No. 3, at the land office at Marshall, under President Cleveland's administration, and he signed the same June 9, 1894.

Adolph Graumann, at the Marshall land office, entered the west half of the southwest quarter of section 30, the papers being signed finally by President Grover Cleveland, November 6, 1893.

Henry E. Wall, at the land office at Marshall, entered the southwest

quarter of the southwest quarter of section 24, President Grover Cleveland signing his papers on March 12, 1896.

William W. Barlow pre-empted land in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 30, at the Marshall land office, the papers being certified to by President Benjamin Harrison on February 14, 1893.

Lars Anderson entered under the pre-emption act, at the land office at Marshall, the north half of the southeast quarter of section 26. President Grover Cleveland signed the papers on October 22, 1895.

Abram L. Miles entered the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 26, at the New Ulm land office, and had his final papers signed by President Chester A. Arthur, June 1, 1882.

DELTON TOWNSHIP.

Delton is composed of congressional township 107, range 35 west, hence is six miles square and contains thirty-six sections of land. It is bounded on the north by Brown county, on the east by Selma township, on the south by Carson and on the west by Amboy township. Its principal stream is the Little Cottonwood river and its many small branches, all of which are merely prairie runs or creeks, which in dry times have but little water in them, but in rainy seasons are full to overflowing.

What in an early day was but a wild prairie wilderness, without shrub or tree, has now come to be one of the finest farming sections in all this part of the state. The farmers have labored long and hard and have finally reclaimed the low, waste places and kept cultivating, annually the higher, better land until the scene is now one of real rural beauty, and the contented owners of these lands have come to enjoy a life little dreamed of by the homesteaders of the early seventies. It is, of course, a pure farming section, with no other industry to enrich the resident, but here farming and dairying certainly pay good returns for the labor expended.

The farmers of this part of Cottonwood county are well favored by having market towns on every hand—Jeffers at the west, Delft at the south and Comfrey to the northeast—all being railroad points, where the products of the farm may be exchanged for the smaller necessities of the farmhouse.

The population of the township in 1895 was 350; in 1900 it had reached 360, and by the census of 1910 it was placed at 371.

FIRST TRACTS OF LAND ENTERED.

The records show the following original land entries in Delton township:

At the New Ulm land office James Coy claimed land in the southwest quarter of section 2, the patent being filed on May 13, 1878, by President Hayes.

John C. Gent homesteaded at the New Ulm land office the southwest quarter of section 20, and the filing was made on January 17, 1878, signed by President U. S. Grant.

John W. Bangle homesteaded at the New Ulm land office the southeast quarter of section 12, the date of filing being May 10, 1878, signed by President U. S. Grant.

George M. Mayberry homesteaded land at the New Ulm land office in section 26, of range 31, and also in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 12, township 107, range 35 west. The filing was made on January 9, 1878, and bore the signature of President U. S. Grant.

Morgan C. Young claimed land in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 14, the filing being dated at New Ulm land office, January 5, 1880, and signed by President Hayes.

Ayres Hall homesteaded land in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 34 and the west half of the northwest quarter of section 4, in this township. It was patented to him by President U. S. Grant and by him signed on December 1, 1873; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

Andrew A. Nickerson homesteaded land in the southeast quarter of section 18, the same being patented by President U. S. Grant and signed by him on February 20, 1877. It was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

Nicholas Burger homesteaded the south half of the northeast quarter of section 22, also the north half of the southeast quarter of that section. It was entered at the land office at New Ulm and was patented by President Chester A. Arthur and signed on June 20, 1882.

Smith Cottrel claimed, as his homestead, the south half of the northeast quarter of section 18; it was filed on at the land office at New Ulm, and patented by President Hayes on March 13, 1879.

John R. Baldwin homesteaded the north half of the southwest quarter of section 30 and the west half of the northeast quarter of section 12, township 107, range 35. This was effected at the land office at New Ulm, and

the patent to same was issued by President Chester A. Arthur, December 1, 1882.

Charles S. Naramore homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 12; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and finally patented to him by President James A. Garfield, January 20, 1881.

George Lent homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 8; his filing was made at the land office at Tracy, and his final papers were signed by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Abraham Triesen, at the Tracy land office, entered as a homestead the northeast quarter of section 34; it was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, May 31, 1884.

George L. Kendall homesteaded the southeast of the northwest; the east half of the southwest and the southwest of the southeast quarter of section 22, at the land office located at New Ulm, and had same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, June 20, 1882.

John Calkin homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 6, at the land office at Tracy, and on February 10, 1883, it was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur.

PRE-EMPTION OF CLAIMS.

Lyman Parsons, at the land office at Tracy, entered a pre-emption claim to the northwest quarter of section 2, and had the same patented to him on June 1, 1882, by President Chester A. Arthur.

Titus F. Mills, at the land office at New Ulm, entered land in the east half of the northwest quarter of section 32; President U. S. Grant signed the papers on May 12, 1874.

Albert Gowin entered, at the land office at Marshall, the southeast quarter of section 6, the same being patented by President Harrison on November 15, 1892.

Edson R. Fry, at the Marshall land office, entered the northwest quarter of section 14, and the final papers were signed by President Grover Cleveland, June 5, 1894.

Carl Schneider, at the Marshall land office, entered the northeast of the southeast quarter of section 18, and President Grover Cleveland signed the papers June 9, 1894.

Charles Schneider took land in the north half of the northeast quarter of the above section and had his papers signed by President Cleveland, June 4, 1895.

John O'Connor entered the northwest quarter of section 26, at the land office at Marshall, President Benjamin Harrison signing the final papers on February 21, 1893.

Ed H. Crumlett, the Tracy land office, entered the southeast quarter of section 4, and his papers were finally signed by President Chester A. Arthur, October 10, 1882.

ORGANIZATION.

Delton township was organized by the county commissioners from congressional township 107, range 35 west, on September 17, 1872. The first township meeting was held at the house of J. J. Edwards, September 27, 1872. The judges of such election were appointed as follow: J. J. Edwards, Lyman Parsons, George W. Bailey, and the clerk was P. W. Oakley.

GREAT BEND TOWNSHIP.

Great Bend township, which derives its name from the big bend in the Des Moines river within its borders, is situated centrally east and west, on the southern line of Cottonwood county, with Jackson county at the south, Springfield township on the west, Dale township at the north and Lakeside township at the east. It is comprised of congressional township 105, range 36 west. Windom, the county seat of Cottonwood county, is located within this township, of which later account is given.

This township had some of the very earliest settlers in the county, owing to the fact that the river courses through this part of the county. Streams and lakes are always sought out by the pioneer, and this settlement was no exception to the rule.

The population of this township in 1895 was 320, exclusive of the city of Windom, which then had a population of 1,523. In 1900 the township's population was 435, and the United States census returns in 1910 gave it 444, with the city of Windom as having 1,749.

ORGANIZATION.

This township was formed by the county commissioners in 1870, and was the original civil township organized in the county. It was described thus: Commencing at the southwest corner of township 106, range 35, or the northeast corner of township 105, range 35 to the southeast corner of

township 105, range 36, thence west along the line of township 104, township 36, to the southwest corner of township 105, range 36, thence along the east line of township 105, range 37, to the northwest corner of township 105, range 36; from thence east and along the south line of township 106, range 36 and on to the place of beginning.

It was resolved to have the first township meeting held at the house of Charles Chamberlin, August 27, 1870. S. B. Stedman, Paul Hamilton and Hosea Eastgate were appointed judges of election.

EARLY LAND ENTRIES AND SETTLERS.

The record shows the following to have been the land entries in Great Bend township:

William Feehan, at the Jackson land office, filed in the east half of the southwest quarter of section 10, December 30, 1873, the papers being signed by President U. S. Grant.

Mary Feehan filed on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 10, December 30, 1873, and it bears the signature of President U. S. Grant.

Reuben N. Sackett filed on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 6, September 13, 1878, the patent being signed by President U. S. Grant.

George W. Russell filed on January 18, 1878, on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 24, at the Worthington land office, the same being signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes.

John F. Hamilton claimed a homestead in the southeast quarter of section 10, February 10, 1879; this was also signed by President Hayes.

Addison G. Hall claimed as a homestead the southeast quarter of section 28; it was patented from the Worthington land office on December 12, 1879, and signed by President U. S. Grant.

John E. Teed homesteaded land in the northeast quarter of section 18. It was patented to him on August 15, 1876, and signed by President U. S. Grant; it was secured at the land office at Worthington.

Elisha B. Owen homesteaded land in the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter and the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 10; it was patented by President Hayes, November 5, 1878, and was entered at the land office at Worthington.

Samuel S. Gillam claimed a homestead under the act of 1862, the same being situated in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 24. This land was patented to him by President Hayes and dated June 10, 1871. It was secured at the land office at Worthington.

George L. Macomber homesteaded land described as being in the east half of the southwest quarter and the west half of the southeast quarter of section 34. It was patented to him on June 10, 1879, by President Hayes and entered at the land office in Worthington.

Arthur Johnston homesteaded land in the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 30; it was patented to him by President James A. Garfield, and signed on April 9, 1881.

Amos Rank homesteaded land in the south half of the southeast quarter of section 30; also in the east half of the northeast quarter of the same section, in this township. It was patented by President James A. Garfield and signed by him on April 9, 1881.

Oliver S. Bryant homesteaded land in the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 8; also the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of the same section. It was patented to him by President Hayes and dated June 5, 1880; it was entered at the land office at Worthington.

James Thompson homesteaded land in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 6; it was patented to him on November 5, 1878, and was signed by President Hayes and entered at the land office at Worthington.

Daniel Gallagher claimed land under the homestead act in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 6, township 104, range 36, and also in the same range, but in township 105, he entered land known as lot six. This was patented by President Chester A. Arthur and dated December 20, 1881, and entered at the land office at Worthington.

Calvin Rank homesteaded land in the north half of the southwest quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 30. It was patented to him by President Hayes, and signed on December 30, 1880; it was entered at the land office at Worthington.

Askel K. Trefol homesteaded land in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 8; it was patented to him by President Hayes through the land office at New Ulm, February 10, 1881.

Allen Gardner, Jr., homesteaded land in the east half of of the southeast quarter and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter and in the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 8. It was patented by President Hayes, and signed on December 30, 1880. It was entered at the land office at Worthington.

Lucius A. Knight homesteaded land in the east half of of the northwest quarter of section 4; it was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, and signed on April 11, 1882; it was entered at the Worthington land office.

Ethan Allen homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 6, and had same patented to him by President James A. Garfield, April 9, 1881.

James E. Fitch homesteaded the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 22, making the entry at the land office at Worthington, and having the patent finally issued by President Hayes, June 15, 1880.

Charles F. Warren, at the Worthington land office, entered as his homestead the northeast quarter of section 14; the same was entered at the land office at Worthington, and the final patent was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, August 3, 1883.

Arthur Johnston homesteaded the old lot in section 30, township 105, range 36, and his filing was made at the land office at Worthington, and his final patent was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, June 5, 1884.

Thomas Faucett homesteaded the west half of the southeast quarter of section 20, his filing being at the land office at Worthington, and his patent was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, June 5, 1884.

William Tryon homesteaded in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34; his entry was made at the land office at Worthington, and his patent was issued and signed by President Chester A. Arthur, March 15, 1882.

Silas D. Allen claimed a homestead right to the north half of the northeast quarter of section 26, the same being entered at the land office at Worthington, and the final papers signed by President Chester A. Arthur, April 5, 1883.

Augustus Halmer homesteaded the south half of the northwest quarter of section 26; it was entered at the land office at Worthington and was patented by the signature of President Hayes, November 5, 1878.

Frank L. Jones homesteaded in the east half of the southeast quarter of section 18; the entry was made at the land office at Worthington, and his final patent was issued under signature of President Chester A. Arthur, January 10, 1885.

Ellison D. Mooers claimed under the homestead act of 1862 the northwest quarter of section 8; it was entered at Worthington land office and finally patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Charles C. Purdy claimed his homestead right to the southwest quarter of section 12, and his filing was at the land office at Jackson, while his final patent was signed by President Hayes, April 5, 1877.

Peter Devlin homesteaded the south half of the southwest quarter of section 2; it was filed at the land office at Worthington, and the patent was issued by President Chester A. Arthur, October 1, 1883.

Diantha Clark, at the Worthington land office, filed on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 10; it was patented on August 25, 1882, by President Chester A. Arthur.

Ed Savage homesteaded the south half of the northwest quarter of section 24, at the land office at Worthington, and it was patented by President Chester A. Arthur, May 10, 1882.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Squire B. Stedman pre-empted the south half of the southeast quarter of section 26, at the land office at Jackson, his papers being signed by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

George H. Young pre-empted at the Worthington land office, in this township and range, his papers being signed by President Hayes, September 4, 1879.

William Gray pre-empted land at the Jackson land office, the same being the south half of the northeast quarter of section 26; President U. S. Grant signed his papers on May 20, 1874.

David Evans, Jr., at the Jackson land office, pre-empted the north half of the northwest quarter of section 18, and his papers were signed by President U. S. Grant, September 12, 1872.

Collins A. Ludden pre-empted the south half of the southwest quarter of section 24 at the land office at Worthington, and his final papers were signed by President Chester A. Arthur, March 30, 1882.

Hosea Eastgate pre-empted land in section 8, at the Worthington land office, and his final papers were signed by President Hayes, November 10, 1877.

Arthur Miller, at the Marshall land office, pre-empted the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 20, and his final papers were signed by President Benjamin Harrison, January 5, 1892.

John T. Smith, at the Jackson land office, pre-empted the southeast quarter of section 6, and his papers were signed by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

Joseph Devlin, at the land office at Marshall, pre-empted the north half of the southeast quarter of section 2, his papers being signed by President Grover Cleveland, June 4, 1895.

Richard K. Johnson pre-empted land at the land office at Marshall, in section 22, the same being signed by President Grover Cleveland.

Robert Devlin entered the north half of the southwest quarter of section 2, the same being patented by President Hayes, April 20, 1883.

Charles W. Hamilton, at the Worthington land office, entered the north-east quarter of the northeast quarter of section 26, and it was patented to him by President U. S. Grant, May 10, 1875.

John T. Smith came to Cottonwood county in 1870 or 1871 and built a store at Big Bend, where it was supposed that the railroad would cross the river and the county seat finally located. He had about five or six hundred dollars and began business with a very small stock of goods. The railroad did not cross at the bend, where Charles Chamberlin had induced a preliminary survey and located the capital of the county. Windom "was born" in 1871 and with it the bright prospects and fond hopes of Big Bend were blighted. Mr. Smith's store was soon removed and no trace of Chamberlin's city nor his papers remains. Mr. Smith built a modest little store at Heron Lake about the time the railroad reached Worthington and began business there. Possessing good business tact, he entered upon a very successful era, gradually increasing his trade. Later, he opened stores in other towns, where he was quite successful and gained considerable wealth.

HIGHWATER TOWNSHIP.

Congressional township 108, range 37 west, is styled Highwater township, and of which name further mention will be made. In this connection it may be stated that when the government surveyors came here to do their work, they found a white man named Charles Zierke, but known as "Dutch Charlie," living with an Indian woman in this township, and he is supposed to have been the first white man in the limits of the county.

Highwater township is bounded at the north by Redwood county, on the east by Germantown township, on the south by Storden township, and at its west is Ann township. Its surface is a beautiful, undulating prairie country, with frequent small prairie creeks, some of which, with the settlement of the country, have dried up. This has come to be one of the wealthy agricultural sections of Cottonwood county, and the land has long since all been taken up and well improved. The present owners are a prosperous people, who are enjoying life, as but few of the first settlers could do, on account of the early-day drawbacks—prairie fires, drought, grasshoppers, etc. There are no villages or railroads within the northern tier of town-

ships, including Highwater. General farming and stock raising are the chief pursuits of the landowners of this portion of the county.

In 1895 the township had a population of 569; in 1900 it had 512 and, according to the 1910 United States census returns, there were 591 inhabitants in the township.

ORGANIZATION.

Highwater was organized by the board of county commissioners at the session of January, 1874, when township 108, range 37, was declared a civil township of Cottonwood county. The county commissioners called the first election to be held in the new township for January 24, 1874, the same to be held at the school house in district No. 3. The name was fixed as "Highwater," after the creek of the same name, which was thus called at an early day on account of its quick rising after a rain storm. This territory was detached from Amo township of former days.

PIONEER SETTLEMENT.

Some of the earliest land entries in the county were effected within Highwater township. Without regard to who might have been first, second or third, the following brief transcript from the public records show many of the early land entries. Most all of the persons who thus homesteaded or pre-empted land in this township in the seventies and eighties became permanent settlers and reared families, and much of the land originally entered is still held by members of the family, while not a few of the settlers are still residing in the places in which they located more than a third of a century ago.

Andrew Larson claimed, as a homestead, land in the north half of the southwest quarter and the south half of the northwest quarter of section 26, of this township, at the New Ulm land office, under President U. S. Grant's administration and signed by him on January 10, 1878.

John Larson claimed land under the homestead act of 1862, in the north half of the southwest quarter and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 2, September 14, 1878, signed by President U. S. Grant, and the entry was effected at the New Ulm land office.

Jeremiah Lott homesteaded land in the east half of the southwest quarter of section 14; it was patented to him by President U. S. Grant and dated August 20, 1875; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

Francis M. Smith claimed, under his homestead rights, land situated

in the southeast quarter of section 24, and it was patented to him by President U. S. Grant, dated September 15, 1874; it was entered at the land office at Jackson.

Halvor Knudtson homesteaded land in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 18; it was patented to him on January 20, 1881, and the instrument was signed by President Hayes, the entry being made at the land office at New Ulm.

Knud Olson homesteaded land in the west half of the northwest quarter of section 28, and it was patented to him by President James A. Garfield, dated June 20, 1881. This land was entered at the land office at Tracy.

Elias Warner homesteaded land in the south half of the southwest quarter of section 18; it was patented to him on February 20, 1882, by President Chester A. Arthur; the land was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

Frederick Jauck homesteaded land in the north half of the southwest quarter of section 10; it was patented to him by President Hayes and dated February 10, 1881; it was entered through the land office at New Ulm.

Ole Esteson located a homestead in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 18, and it was patented to him by President James A. Garfield and signed on June 20, 1881; it was entered at the land office at Tracy.

Frithjof Riis selected a homestead in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 28, and it was patented to him by President Hayes and dated January 20, 1881; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

John Olson homesteaded land in the west half of the southwest quarter and the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 24. It was patented by President James A. Garfield and signed by him on May 3, 1881; it was entered in the land office at New Ulm.

George B. Walker homesteaded the south half of the northwest quarter of section 30, and it was patented to him by President Hayes and was signed by him on June 24, 1878.

Alse H. Ophime homesteaded land in the north half of the southeast quarter of section 28; it was entered at the land office at Tracy and was patented by President Chester A. Arthur, who signed it on November 1, 1881.

Wilhelm Jeick homesteaded land in the south half of the northeast quarter of section 10, and it was patented by President James A. Garfield, who signed same June 20, 1881.

Hartman Loomis homesteaded land in the southwest quarter of section 6; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and was patented by President Chester A. Arthur, signed by him on June 20, 1882.

Svend S. Loeny had patented to him a homestead, signed by President U. S. Grant, March 1, 1876, the entry being made at the land office at New Ulm. This land is situated in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 32.

Lars Halvorson homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 14, the patent was signed by President Hayes, February 10, 1881, and the land entry was at the land office at Worthington.

Christian Oleson claimed, under the homestead act of 1862, the south half of the northeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 24; it was signed by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881, and was entered at the Tracy land office.

Andrew Overson homesteaded the north half of the southeast quarter of section 30; it was patented by President James A. Garfield and signed by him on June 20, 1881.

Ole Nelson Beck had patented to him the east half of the southeast quarter of section 26, the land was entered at the land office at New Ulm during President Hayes' administration and was signed by him on January 20, 1881.

Peter Pettersen, at the Tracy land office, secured land under the homestead act, the same was described as being the south half of the northeast quarter of section 34. This homestead was signed by President James A. Garfield on June 20, 1881.

Aslask Torgerson, at the land office at Tracy, had patented to him by President James A. Garfield, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 18; the instrument was signed by President Garfield on June 20, 1881.

William Geik, at the New Ulm land office, claimed under the homestead act, land in the south half of the southeast quarter and the south half of the southwest quarter of section 10; the patent was signed by the hand of President U. S. Grant, October 5, 1873.

John Roth homesteaded land in the northeast quarter of section 22, and had it patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur and signed on February 10, 1883.

Andreas H. Rongstad, at the New Ulm land office, secured his right to a homestead in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 34; the patent was signed by President James A. Garfield, May 3, 1881.

Andrew Pederson homesteaded the north half of the northeast quarter

of section 34, at the Tracy land office and had his patent finally issued by President James A. Garfield on June 20, 1881.

Ole A. Thollongbakken, at the Tracy land office, entered as his homestead the north half of the northeast quarter of section 6, and he had the same patented to him by President Grover Cleveland, who signed it April 25, 1885.

Ollare Hanson, at the Tracy land office, entered his homestead in the north half of the southwest quarter of section 34, and had his patent issued to him by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Jens Jacobson pre-empted the land in section 2, of this township, the entry being filed at the land office at New Ulm, and the papers were signed by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

Lowitz Larson Tatdal, at the New Ulm land office, pre-empted the south half of the southwest quarter of section 32, and his papers were signed by President U. S. Grant, in May, 1874.

John A. Monson, at the land office at New Ulm, pre-empted the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the northwest of the northeast of section 8, his final papers being signed by President U. S. Grant, November 10, 1875.

Martin Erickson claimed land under the pre-emption act at the land office at New Ulm, and his papers were signed by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

A. Torgerson, at the New Ulm land office, pre-empted the south half of the southwest quarter of section 18, the same being issued to him by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

Henry A. Bredli, at the New Ulm land office, pre-empted the land in this township and his papers were signed by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

A. G. Quale pre-empted land in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 8, the papers being signed by President Hayes on January 10, 1879.

Christian Olen, at the land office at New Ulm, pre-empted land in the south half of the northwest quarter of section 22, the papers being signed by President Hayes on May 24, 1879.

Lars Larson Evanger, at the land office at New Ulm, pre-empted the

east half of the southeast quarter of section 24, and had his papers verified by President U. S. Grant, April 10, 1875.

Ingeborg Erickson pre-empted land at the land office at New Ulm, the same being the west half of the southeast quarter of section 20; the papers were signed by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

LAKESIDE TOWNSHIP.

Lakeside township is the second township from the eastern line of Cottonwood county, and is on the south line, comprising all of congressional township 105, range 35 west. It is bounded on the north by Carson township, on the east by Mountain Lake, on the south by Jackson county and on the west by Great Bend township. In this section some of the earliest settlements in the county were effected. The village of Bingham Lake is situated within Lakeside township, the history of which appears further on in this chapter. The township is traversed by the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad. The township once had a large number of lakes, some of which have long since disappeared through drainage systems, but there are others still in existence—Bingham lake, near the village; Fish lake, in the south part of the township; Cottonwood lake, Clear lake, etc. This is an ideal farming township—good soil, near to good market towns, close to the county seat and a population of intelligent citizens, whose aim in life is to thrive and do all they can for the advancement of churches and public schools.

The population of Lakeside township in 1895 was 547; in 1900 it was 392 and according to the census returns in 1910 it had 449 population.

ORGANIZATION.

This township became a separate civil township by an act of the board of county commissioners at their meeting in the month of August, 1870, as comprising all of congressional township 105, range 35 west.

FIRST SETTLERS AND LAND ENTRIES.

The best evidence of names and dates concerning the settlement of this township is the record shown at the court house at Windom, which discloses the following entries of homesteads and pre-emption claims:

August L. Brown had patented to him a homestead in the southwest quarter of section 22; the filing was dated at the Worthington land office and bore the signature of President U. S. Grant.

Charles F. Sheldon claimed the east half of the southwest quarter of section 32, of this township, as a homestead, the same being patented on December 24, 1877, and signed by President U. S. Grant.

Charles Breech claimed the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 32 for a homestead on December 24, 1877, the papers bearing the signature of President U. S. Grant.

Osgood H. Dinnell, on May 23, 1878, homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 2, at the Jackson land office, with the signature of President U. S. Grant attached thereto.

M. Mathews homesteaded the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 4, May 29, 1878; the patent was signed by President U. S. Grant; the transaction was made at the Worthington land office.

Samuel C. Taggart homesteaded the northeast of section 22, June 5, 187; the patent was signed by President U. S. Grant, from the Worthington land office.

Ebenezer A. Hatch homesteaded, at the Worthington land office, the north half of the southeast quarter of section 10, the papers being signed August 26, 1878, by President U. S. Grant.

Kirk W. Sheldon claimed the northwest quarter of section 28 and had it patented to him by President U. S. Grant, who signed it July 1, 1875. The entry was made through the land office at Worthington.

Henry W. Burbank homesteaded land in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34, the patent being issued by President Hayes on December 13, 1879, through the Worthington land office.

David P. Jaqua claimed a homestead under the act of 1862, in the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 4, the patent being signed by President Hayes, through the Worthington land office, December 12, 1877.

Myron Barr homesteaded the south half of the southeast quarter of section 10, President Hayes signing the patent on December 13, 1870.

Eber Morton claimed a homestead in the south half of the southeast quarter of section 18, the patent being signed by President Hayes, June 15, 1880, through the Worthington land office.

Jacob W. Grant homesteaded the east half of the southeast quarter of section 28, the patent being signed by President Hayes on December 13, 1880, the entry being made at the land office at Worthington.

Frank Parso homesteaded land in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter and the south half of the southeast quarter of section 32. His patent was signed by President Hayes on June 10, 1879, and the entry was made at the Worthington land office.

Henry C. Barr homesteaded land in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 20, and had his patent signed by President Hayes on January 20, 1881, the entry being effected through the land office at New Ulm.

Chester N. Lewis homesteaded land in the south half of the southwest quarter of section 20. His patent was issued under the signature of President Hayes and was dated June 15, 1880; the entry was made at the land office at Worthington.

William C. Banks homesteaded land in the southeast quarter of section 28, and it was patented to him by President Hayes, signed on August 5, 1877, the entry being made at the land office at Worthington.

William J. Leisure claimed a homestead under the act of 1862, in the southeast quarter of section 14; it was patented to him by President U. S. Grant and signed on February 1, 1873; the entry was effected at the land office at Jackson.

John W. Mathews homesteaded land in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 10. It was patented to him by President Hayes, through the land office at Worthington, December 30, 1879.

Judson F. Pearson homesteaded land in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 4, and his patent was signed by President Hayes on December 30, 1880; the entry was made at the land office at Worthington.

John Edwin Hemme homesteaded land in the north half of the southeast quarter of section 20; it was patented to him by President Hayes, signed by him on December 20, 1877; the entry was effected at the land office at Worthington.

Simeon Greenfield claimed a homestead under the act of March 20, 1862, in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter and lot No. 1, in section 28. It was patented to him by President Hayes and signed by him December 30, 1880, and entered at the land office at Worthington.

James C. Porter claimed a homestead in the east half of the southeast quarter of section 30; also in the west half of the southeast quarter. His patent was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, and was dated December 20, 1881.

Charles Maxon homesteaded land in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 20; it was patented to him by President Hayes and signed

by him on November 5, 1878; it was secured at the land office at Worthington.

Elizabeth P. Carpenter homesteaded the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter and lot No. 2, in section 4. The patent was issued by President Hayes, and signed by him on December 20, 1877; the entry was made at the land office at Worthington.

Polly R. Young homesteaded the west half of the southwest quarter of section 2, and had the same patented to her by President Hayes, June 15, 1881. This entry was at the Worthington land office.

Seth S. Johnson homesteaded, April 9, 1881, at the Worthington land office, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 18, this township. The patent was signed by President James A. Garfield, and the entry was made at the land office at Worthington.

Albert C. Innes homesteaded, at the Worthington land office, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 12, the patent being signed on March 15, 1882, by President Chester A. Arthur.

John J. Young homesteaded the land in lot 4, in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 4. It was patented by President Chester A. Arthur, and signed on October 1, 1883, the entry being effected through the land office at Worthington.

Elizabeth Moffatt homesteaded land in the southwest quarter of section 24, the same being filed at the land office at Worthington, and finally patented by President Chester A. Arthur on October 26, 1883.

Andrew Greenlee homesteaded land under the act of 1862 at the land office located at Worthington, and had same patented to him on June 5, 1884, by President Chester A. Arthur. It was situated in the east half of the southeast quarter of section 30.

Andrew L. Ely homesteaded land by entry at the land office at Worthington, the same being the northwest quarter of section 22; it was patented by President Hayes on December 13, 1879.

David Fast claimed a homestead in the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2; it was entered at the land office at Worthington, and patented by President Cleveland, January 9, 1886.

Montgomery Milford homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 20, at the land office at Worthington, and the patent was issued by President Chester A. Arthur, June 5, 1884.

Israel Burbank homesteaded lot No. 3, in section 34, at the land office at Jackson; the same was patented by President U. S. Grant, May 26, 1873.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

John D. Cook, at the Worthington land office, pre-empted the west half of the northeast quarter of section 14, and on September 10, 1880, it was patented to him by President Hayes.

Joseph A. Hoople, at the Worthington land office, entered the west half of the northwest quarter and the west half of the southwest quarter of section 12, and his papers were signed by President Chester A. Arthur, January 20, 1885.

John Button entered the west half of the northeast quarter of section 26, this township, and had his papers signed by President U. S. Grant, April 1, 1875.

Phillip Linscheid, at the Marshall land office, entered the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 10, the final papers being signed by President Grover Cleveland, June 4, 1895.

Marcellus H. Better, at the Jackson land office, entered the west half of the northeast quarter and the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 8. President U. S. Grant signed his patent papers.

Henry Clark filed on the southwest quarter of section 10 at the Jackson land office, and the same was patented to him by President U. S. Grant, September 2, 1872.

James W. Thorn entered land in this township, in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 34; it was entered at the land office at Jackson, and finally patented by President U. S. Grant, May 15, 1873.

VILLAGE OF BINGHAM LAKE.

This sprightly little village is situated in Lakeside township, in section 9, township 105, range 35 west, and was platted by the officers of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company, July 28, 1875.

The village of Bingham Lake was made a separate corporation from Lakeside township in 1900. Its municipal improvements have not as yet materialized to any great extent; it has no water or lighting system.

The postoffice at Bingham Lake was established in 1872 and the first postmaster was Daniel Davis, who held the office until 1886. Among the postmasters who have served since that time are Samuel Taggert, John J.

Goertzen and C. F. Hiebert. The present postmaster is John J. Gaertzen. The postal receipts for the last fiscal year, exclusive of money orders, amounted to one thousand two hundred and four dollars and twenty-nine cents. The money order department yielded one thousand five hundred dollars. Two rural routes serve the country communities.

TILE FACTORY.

The tile factory at Bingham Lake has in the past been operated with various degrees of success. However, not until the business management of the concern came under the direction of John Henderson, has the plant attained a perfect success. At the present time the plant is running at its full capacity, employing eleven men and making six to eight thousand tile a day.

PIONEER BUSINESS MEN.

Daniel C. Davis was the first permanent settler in the village of Bingham Lake and, in company with R. P. Mathews, established all the corners of the townsites. Upon coming to the village, Mr. Davis opened a general store and continued to operate it for three years. He was appointed postmaster in 1872, and served until 1886. It is rather of an interesting fact that at the end of the first three months, after taking out his own salary and office expenses, the government's share of the receipts was three cents.

Mr. Davis bought his first stock of goods, amounting to three thousand six hundred dollars, in New York, as goods could be bought much cheaper in the East than at St. Paul or Minneapolis. However, he greatly overestimated the needs of the people and had to dispose of a great amount of his stock to Windom merchants. During the grasshopper days he supplied many needy people with provisions, trusting that when they were able he would receive payment, but in many cases his accommodations and sacrifices were lost sight of and the money was never forthcoming.

In 1872 the plat of ground set aside for a park was broken up by Mr. Davis and planted with trees. They were not taken as good care of as they should have been, with the result that the prairie fires destroyed most of them. A few of the original trees are still standing, but the majority have been planted within the last thirty years.

Among the early business-men, besides Mr. Davis, were, Mr. Clines, who came from Lake City. He sold his business to Mr. Young, who was burned out. A. J. Bueller was another one of the early merchants. He

remained in the village for a while and finally sold out and went to Montana. D. J. Hiebert was also one of the early business-men and did a large and profitable business for many years.

One of the early landmarks of the village is still standing, and that is the first house erected in the village by Mr. Davis and now occupied by William Evans. It is in a good state of preservation and looks better than many of the houses erected in the last few years.

By noticing the present business directory one can see that there has been a great change since the early settlement of the village. Almost every line of business is now represented, and although the village is destined to never become a large town, yet it is growing because the merchants are wideawake and prosperous and the village is located in the midst of a fine farming community, which is the chief basis for all growth.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN 1916.

The business interests of Bingham Lake were represented by the following people in 1916:

Bank—First State Bank.
Barber—Frank E. Hyde.
Blacksmith—W. J. Butler.
Brick Plant—John Henderson.
Creamery—Bingham Lake Creamery.
Elevator—St. John Grain Company, The Liem Elevator.
General Dealer—Holt & Wickland.
Harness Shop—Erickson & Anderson.
Implement Dealer—Charles A. Liem.
Meat Market—Henry Wessel.
Livery—Joseph Morton.
Lumber Dealer—S. L. Rogers Lumber Company.
Restaurant—J. J. Soltau.
Stock Buyer—C. S. Cain, N. P. Minion.
Telephone—Windom Mutual, Northwestern.

MIDWAY TOWNSHIP.

Midway township is the central sub-division of the county, on the eastern border, and comprises all of congressional township 106, range 34

west. It is south of Selma township, west of the line between Cottonwood and Watonwan counties, and north of Mountain Lake township. The village of Mountain Lake is within this township and was named "Midway," but latter changed on petition of the citizens. Originally, this township had numerous swamps and lakelets, but with the flight of years they have nearly all been reclaimed, and now growing crops wave over their surface. The soil is of unexcelled fertility in these old lake and pond beds. Hundreds of miles of private farm tiling have made this one of the best sections in the county, and still the work is going on.

This township, as are others adjoining it, is largely settled by Russians, who came in to this part of the county in great colonies about 1870 and later. They still retain many of their foreign notions, but are thorough farmers and good citizens. If they have any special hobby it is that of supporting an almost endless number of different kinds of Mennonite churches, which practically are the same, only for some special feature.

The population in 1895 was 528; in 1900 it had reached 607, and according to the United States census reports of 1910 it was placed at 658.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

This township was organized by the county commissioners board in March, 1895, from territory once included in Mountain Lake township, the new township taking in township 106, range 34, west. The first meeting and township election were called by the board to meet at the house of Cornelius Janzen, March 16, 1895.

EARLY SETTLERS.

The records show the following land entries in this township:

Joseph A. Belling homesteaded, March 18, 1878, at the New Ulm land office, the northeast quarter of section 4, the patent being signed by President U. S. Grant.

William Seeger homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 2, at the New Ulm land office, the patent being signed by President Hayes, March 13, 1879.

F. Tows homesteaded the south half of the northwest quarter of section 28, at the land office located at Tracy and it was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Apollos S. Yale, on February 10, 1883, had patented to him by Presi-

dent Chester A. Arthur, a homestead in the northeast quarter of section 30, the same having been entered in the land office at Tracy.

Thomas Curley, at the Tracy land office, had a homestead which was situated in the south half of the southeast quarter of section 2, the same was patented by President Chester A. Arthur, May 10, 1883.

Asa L. Warren homesteaded the south half of the southwest quarter of section 34, at the land office at New Ulm, and had the same patented to him by President U. S. Grant, February 20, 1877.

Morris Dunn homesteaded the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10 and the south half of the northeast quarter of the same section, all within township 106, range 34, west. It was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, May 3, 1884.

Martin Carty homesteaded the northeast half of the southeast quarter of section 2, the entry being made at the New Ulm land office; the patent was issued to him by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Henry Goosen, at the Tracy land office, entered as his homestead the west half of the southwest quarter of section 12; the same was patented by President Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Henry F. Billings homesteaded at the New Ulm land office the east half of the northeast quarter of section 34; it was patented by President U. S. Grant, December 1, 1873.

Paul Seeger homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 20; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1873.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Alonzo R. Phillips, at the New Ulm land office, pre-empted the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 8; President Hayes signed the papers on May 24, 1879.

Henry M. Kroecker, at the land office at Marshall, entered the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 30, the final papers being certified to by President Benjamin Harrison, March 9, 1893.

Ruth M. Chandler, at the land office at New Ulm, entered the north half of the southwest quarter of section 34, President U. S. Grant signing the final papers on May 15, 1876.

Caroline Quiring, at the New Ulm land office, entered the south half of the southeast quarter of section 4, President Hayes signing the papers on January 20, 1881.

Albert Wigton entered at the New Ulm land office, the west half of the

southeast quarter of section 6, President Hayes issuing the papers on July 24, 1879.

MOUNTAIN LAKE VILLAGE.

The village of Mountain Lake received its name from the lake of the same name, located about two miles southeast of the village. In the center of the lake was an island almost circular in form, flat on top and rising out of the water about forty feet. The upper part of the island was covered with trees which could be seen for many miles. This spot served as a landmark and a guide for many of the early settlers.

Near this lake and island the railroad station was first located. In time the station was moved to the present site and the name of the village was changed to Midway, but the name proving unsatisfactory, was changed back to Mountain Lake.

The village was platted in 1870, but made little progress until after the building of the railroad in 1873. In this year, three general stores were doing business in the village and were owned by S. J. Soule, J. Lynch and Paul Seeger. The store owned by Seeger was probably the first and was located on the site of the State Bank. The store room was very small, but was quite adequate to the needs of the times. Mr. Seeger came from Cumee, Russia, in 1873, and settled on the first claim in the vicinity of Mountain Lake. He was also among the first postmasters. The first blacksmith was Carl Penner, who later moved away and died in California. Among other early business men in the village were Howard Soule, Jacob Reiner, John Janzen and Abraham Penner.

With the coming of the railroad, immigration set in rapidly and the village grew by leaps and bounds. In 1886 the village was incorporated with a population of three hundred people, mostly Mennonites from southern Russia.

Among other business factors in the village have been the following: Jacob Heier, who began the furniture business in 1878 south of the railroad track, settled in Mountain Lake in 1874 and began work as a carpenter. David Ewert, who in 1880 opened a lumber yard and store in partnership with H. P. Goertz, came to the village in 1878. P. H. Goosen, the blacksmith, who came into the village in 1875. H. P. Goertz, one of the very earliest settlers and among the very few living in the town, started business with David Ewert and in 1882 started in the lumber business for himself. He also settled in the village in 1875. Henry Hammer located in the village in 1883 and opened up a harness shop in 1877. Mr. Hammer

first settled on a tree claim, eight miles north of the village. Frank Balzer entered into the lumber business in 1886 and still operates his place of business. Balzer & Hiebert opened a general store in 1888. Mr. Balzer, the druggist, began the drug business in 1889. John C. Hiebert became a dealer in general merchandise in 1891. Abraham Nickel, the harness man, began business in 1891. Edward Rupp, merchant, began business in 1892. A. E. Woodruff opened a large merchandise store in 1894. Thiessen Brothers began their implement business in 1895. In 1896 Julien Glasman opened a new meat market. John Jungas began the operation of a shoe store in 1897. In 1898 P. P. Goertzen a jewelry store and was quite successful.

One of the early physicians to locate in the village was Dr. John Watson, a graduate of Bellone Medical College, New York City. He began the practice of medicine in Mountain Lake in 1901.

Among other men who have contributed to the business welfare of the town are, J. D. Schroeder, J. J. Unruh, Theo. Nickel and G. D. Schroeder.

Among other early settlers have been the following: Abraham Funk, 1875; H. Goosen and G. Gerdes in the early seventies; Abraham J. Fast, 1875; Henry J. Fast, 1875; Gerhard Neufeld, 1878; Jacob P. Harder, 1873; John Janzen, 1873; Henry Dickman and Peter Dick (Krim).

MUNICIPAL.

The village of Mountain Lake became separated from the township in 1886. A Penner was the first president of the town council and John Janzen, the first recorder. The present officers are inclusive of the following: President, J. H. Dickman; treasurer, F. F. Schroeder; recorder, M. S. Hanson; trustees, John Jungas, D. Heppner and A. Janzen; marshal, William Burk; justices, Herman-Teichroew and John P. Rempel; constables, J. J. Brown and W. Burk; assessor, Herman Teichroew.

The town is very active in the way of improvements. Twenty thousand dollars have been spent in installing a water-works system. The town is furnished with water from a drilled well four hundred and fifty feet deep, three hundred feet of which is drilled through solid rock.

POSTOFFICE.

The postoffice at Mountain Lake was one of the first government offices established in the county and at the present time its receipts are the second largest in the county, amounting to four thousand three hundred dollars.



BETHEL CHURCH, MOUNTAIN LAKE.



FARM VIEW NEAR MOUNTAIN LAKE.



GERMAN SCHOOL, MOUNTAIN LAKE.



HIGH SCHOOL, MOUNTAIN LAKE.

exclusive of money orders, for the last fiscal year. Four rural routes serve the country people from this office. Among the postmasters who have held the office are the following: Howard Sonler, John Janzen, Abraham Siemens, Joe Wigton, J. D. Schroeder and L. L. Borgen. Mr. Borgen, the present postmaster, has served in the capacity continuously for the last fourteen years and although a Republican, received his last appointment under a Democratic administration.

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The Mountain Lake Commercial Club began its existence on March 1, 1915. In the beginning the membership numbered nearly one hundred, but since the number has decreased until there are only about eighty members. The club is composed of business and professional men in Mountain Lake and neighboring communities. A great many public questions have been brought up and discussed at the meetings with the result that a great deal of good has been accomplished. Among the questions have been those of sewerage, roads, a public rest room, etc. The officers who were first elected still retain their offices. They include the following: President, Frank Balzer; vice-president, Henry P. Goertz; secretary, D. G. Hiebert; treasurer, F. F. Schroeder; executive committee, Dr. W. A. Piper, D. C. Balzer and A. A. Penner.

The purpose of the club is to bring into one organization, the business and professional men of Mountain Lake and vicinity, so that by frequent meetings and the full interchange of views, they may secure an intelligent unity and harmony of action, that shall result to their own benefit, as well as the future development of the community in which they live.

MENNONITE HOSPITAL.

The Mennonite hospital of Mountain Lake began its existence about 1905. The organization included only local men, among whom were, H. P. Goertz, D. Ewert, J. D. Hiebert, F. Balzer, J. H. Dickman, J. G. Hiebert. For a few years the institution was run without much success. Finally, in 1912, the company was reorganized and the institution sold to the Bethel Deaconess Home, of Newton, Kansas, and is now considered as a branch of it. The hospital is managed by a local board consisting of one member from each of the five Mennonite churches. H. P. Goertz is president of the board; D. P. Eitzen, secretary; Aaron Peters, treasurer.

The physicians in charge are Doctor Piper, of Mountain Lake, and Doctor Sogge, of Windom, who are assisted by three sisters and two or three helpers. In 1915 the institution had sixty-four patients and thirty-two operations were performed.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND FIRE COMPANY.

In 1913 the Mountain Lake Milling Company installed an electric light plant which furnishes the town with electricity. However, arrangements have been made whereby connections are to be made with the Rapidan system and hereafter light will be furnished by that concern.

The fire company is composed of fourteen men, well supplied with a fire engine, hose, ladders, chemical tanks and other necessary fire equipment. The present indebtedness of the town is about thirteen thousand dollars.

INDUSTRIES.

David Hiebert, who came from Russia, started the Mountain Lake flour-mill in 1875. He conducted the business for a period of ten years of time. He sold to Neufield & Friesen, who after two or three years sold to Abraham Penner. Mr. Penner was not a miller and therefore was not very successful. He soon sold out to Diedricks & Hiebert, the present owners, who after running the business for four years, formed an incorporated company known as the Mountain Lake Roller Milling Company. The officers at present are: President, J. J. Diedricks; vice-president, J. J. Hiebert; secretary-treasurer, D. G. Hiebert. The company is incorporated for forty thousand dollars. The capacity of the mill is one hundred and twenty barrels per day. Their special brands of flour are "White Rose," a first-grade flour, and "Natural Patent," a second-grade flour. Besides they make rye, graham, wheat graham, corn meal and rye flour. An elevator is run in connection with the mill which has a capacity of ten thousand bushels.

At the time of incorporation, an electric plant was installed in connection with the mill and was very successful. Recently, however, an opportunity presented itself of securing better service by connecting with the Consumers Power Company. The Milling Company has just entered into a ten-year contract with the above company, service to begin on October 1, 1916. The Milling Company continues to distribute light and power.

The Farmers' Co-operative Creamery at Mountain Lake was organized about June 1, 1908. The company owns their own building, which was

built especially for the purpose and is doubtless the best and most completely equipped of any in the county. The plant has a capacity of about ten thousand pounds of butter per week, but the amount turned out at the present time amounts to about four thousand pounds per week, all of which has a ready market in the local community and Chicago. During the month of July, 1916, the creamery had one hundred and ten patrons.

SMALL CONFLAGRATIONS.

Mountain Lake has been very fortunate in not having many destructive fires. In 1897 the elevators belonging to H. P. Goertz and E. G. Terwilliger were burned, causing a loss of six thousand dollars. It was the general belief at the time that the fire was of incendiary origin, but it was never proven.

In 1900 the creamery owned by P. C. Hiebert burned, causing a loss of four thousand dollars, covered by insurance to the extent of two thousand dollars.

On April 13, 1898, the Hubbard & Palmer elevator burned, causing a loss of six thousand dollars. Seven thousand bushels of wheat were destroyed.

Hiebert Brothers' elevator was burned on January 30, 1899. At the same time an attempt was made to burn the elevator belonging to Hubbard & Palmer. All the losses were covered by insurance.

MOUNTAIN LAKE TOWNSHIP.

The southeastern corner township in Cottonwood is Mountain Lake. It comprises all of congressional township 105, range 34, west, and is a full thirty-six section township. It is situated south of Midway township, west of the Watonwan county line, north from Jackson county and east of Lakewood township. It derives its name from the lake of that name within its borders, of which further mention will be made. The lake, as known to pioneers, is no more; it has long since been drained and grains and grasses grow in its old bed. There are a few small prairie creeks in the township, but none of any considerable size. Except the southern suburbs of the village of Mountain Lake, which is in Midway township, there are no villages within Mountain Lake township. It is excellent land and produces immense crops of all grains and grasses common to this latitude. It is set-

tled very largely by Russians, who make first-class agriculturists, though many have methods peculiar to themselves.

The population of the township in 1895 was 612; in 1900 it was 561 and the United States census for 1900 gave it as having only 512.

ORGANIZATION.

Mountain Lake township was organized at a board meeting in 1871, by a petition presented the board by Daniel D. Bates and many more, asking that township 105, range 34 be set off and called Mountain Lake township. The prayer was answered and the township organized by calling the first election at the house of A. A. Soule, Saturday, May 6, 1871. Daniel D. Bates, A. A. Soule and M. Jacobson were appointed judges of such election, and S. H. Soule was appointed clerk. The legal description of the new townships was: "Commencing at the northeast corner of township 105, range 34, thence south to the southeast corner of said township and range; thence west to the southwest corner of said township, thence east to the northeast corner of said township and to the northeast corner of said township, thence to the place of beginning."

PIONEER AND LATER LAND ENTRIES.

The subjoined list of homesteads and pre-emption claims has been transcribed from the books in the register of deeds in the court house at Windom, and shows many entries, name of land office and by whom patented.

A homestead claim was filed on August 25, 1873, by William H. Drake in the northwest quarter of section 4, township 105, range 34, west, at the Jackson land office, and signed by President U. S. Grant.

Under the Soldiers Bounty Act of 1820, Abraham Mace, a private in Captain Wooster's company, Vermont militia, at the invasion of Plattsburg, during the War of 1812, was entitled to land, and his heirs laid claim to the southwest quarter of section 30, township 105, range 34, at the Jackson land office; the same contains one hundred and fifty-six acres.

President U. S. Grant signed the patent for a homestead on November 4, 1874, for Julia T. Knewlton, from the Worthington land office, the same being land in the southeast quarter of section 30, township 105, range 34.

Alfred A. Soule homesteaded, at the Jackson land office, the east half of the northwest quarter and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 2, in 1872, the same being signed by President U. S. Grant.

Ed. O. Zimmerman homesteaded at the Worthington land office the southwest quarter of section 20, the patent being signed by President Hayes, July 23, 1878.

James Cooney claimed, as a homestead, July 23, 1878, the east half of the northeast quarter of section 4, the patent was signed by President U. S. Grant; the papers came through the land office at Worthington.

James B. Jones claimed a homestead in the southeast quarter of section 14, and had it patented to him by President Hayes and signed on February 10, 1881; it was secured at the Worthington land office.

Eliza C. Huntington homesteaded the east half of the northeast quarter of section 30; it was entered at the land office at Worthington and was patented by President Hayes and by him signed on December 13, 1880.

Simon Huntington homesteaded land in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 30; it was entered at the land office at Worthington and patented by President Hayes, who signed it on June 15, 1880.

Cornelius Quiring homesteaded land in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 28; it was entered at the land office at Worthington and patented by President Chester A. Arthur and signed by him on April 5, 1883.

Ole Christensen homesteaded the east half of the southeast quarter of section 12, at the land office at Worthington and had same patented to him by President U. S. Grant, who signed it on November 3, 1876.

Peder Christensen claimed, as his homestead, the east half of the northeast quarter of section 12, and the same was patented to him by President U. S. Grant, and signed on December 1, 1876; the entry was made at Worthington land office.

John Oglesby at the land office located at Worthington, claimed as his homestead the west half of the southeast quarter of section 34 and his patent was issued by President Hayes, June 15, 1880.

George Baumann, at the Worthington land office homesteaded the west half of the southeast quarter of section 18, and had same patented to him by President Hayes, who signed the papers on December 30, 1879.

Joseph Meixell claimed as a homestead at the land office at Worthington, the northwest quarter of section 28, and same was patented by President Hayes, November 5, 1878.

William Weibe homesteaded the north half of the northeast quarter of section 22, the entry being made at the land office at Worthington and patented by President Chester A. Arthur, April 5, 1883.

Christian Reinert homesteaded the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 22; also the northeast of the southwest of same section,

the entry being made at the land office at Worthington and the final patent issued to him by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Charles F. Barnes homesteaded the west half of the northwest quarter of section 34, the entry being made at the land office at Worthington; the patent was issued by President Chester A. Arthur, March 15, 1884.

Samuel E. Ford homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 18, and it was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, April 5, 1883; the land was entered at the land office at Worthington.

Heinrich Regehr, at the Worthington land office filed on the east half of the southwest quarter of section 34, and the same was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, June 5, 1884.

Henry H. Winter homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 26. The entry was effected at the land office at Worthington and was finally patented to him by President U. S. Grant, November 5, 1874.

Thomas S. Potter homesteaded the north half of the northwest quarter of section 18, and the same was patented to him by President Grover Cleveland, April 20, 1885.

Martin Pepper homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 14 and his patent was signed by President Hayes, November 5, 1878; the entry was made at the land office at Worthington.

Andreas Heiler, at the land office, Worthington, filed on a homestead in northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 10, this township; it was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, January 10, 1885.

Jacob Dickson homesteaded the east half of the southeast quarter of section 28 and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, April 5, 1883. It was filed on at the land office in Worthington.

Wilhelm Holzrichter had patented to him a homestead by President Chester A. Arthur, October 26, 1883, the same being the south half of the southwest quarter of section 18. It was filed on at the Worthington land office.

David Wade homesteaded the south half of the northeast quarter of section 22, the same being entered at the land office at Worthington and finally patented by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Jacob Neufeld entered as a homestead at the land office at Worthington, the northeast quarter of section 20, and had the same patented to him by President Grover Cleveland, August 10, 1886.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Paul Seeger, at the Jackson land office, pre-empted the northeast quarter of section 4, President U. S. Grant signing his final papers.

Martin Henderson pre-empted two quarters in this township at the land office at Jackson and the final papers were signed by President Chester A. Arthur, May 20, 1884.

William H. Race, at the Worthington land office, pre-empted west half of the southwest quarter of section 12, the papers finally being verified by President Hayes, March 20, 1877.

D. D. Olfert pre-empted at the land office at Marshall, the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 20, the papers being issued by President Benjamin Harrison, November 15, 1893.

William Leder, at the land office at Marshall, pre-empted the south half of the northwest quarter of section 6, the papers being signed by President William McKinley, September 9, 1897.

Frederick Maker pre-empted the east half of the southeast quarter of section 6, the papers being signed by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

Keziah M. Tingley, at the Jackson land office, entered the north half of the northeast quarter of section 34; President U. S. Grant signed his papers on April 1, 1875.

Peter K. Voth entered land at the land office at Marshall, the same being described as the north half of the southeast quarter, and the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 20; the final papers were signed by President Benjamin Harrison, March 1, 1892.

The business interests and professions of Mountain Lake were represented by the following in 1916:

Auto garage—H. P. Goertz Auto Company, Peter Stoesz.

Banks—First National, First State.

Barber shop—Rempel & Harder.

Blacksmith shops—Peter Goosen, Herman Kremin.

Confectionery—J. J. Vogt, "The Pleasant Corner."

Clothing—Janzen Brothers, J. N. Fast.

Creamery—Farmers Co-operative Association.

Creamery station—Fairmount Creamery Company, Worthington Creamery Company, Hansford Creamery Company.

Drug store—S. Balzer.

Dray lines—J. P. E. Derksen, Dick & Heppner.

- Dentist—E. A. Rieke.
Elevator—F. Schroeder, Hubbard & Palmer, Farmers Elevator Company, Schaefer Brothers.
Furniture dealer—Jacob Heir, J. J. Janzen.
Feed store—D. D. Enns.
General dealers—Balzer, Hiebert and Company, David Ewert, P. Geyerman & Sons, Ed. Rupp.
Hotel—The Commercial.
Harness shop—Mens S. Hanson.
Hardware dealers—J. J. Janzen, John Jungas.
Implement dealers—Schroeder & Becker, Thiessen Brothers, Mountain Lake Implement Company.
Jeweler—W. A. Nickel.
Lumber dealers—H. P. Goertz, Frank Balzer and Company.
Livery—George Hutgler.
Mill—Mountain Lake Roller Milling Company.
Milliners—Hiebert Sisters.
Meat markets—George P. Derkson, T. J. Eickholt.
Merchant tailor—Phil Nerstheimer.
Newspaper—*Mountain Lake View* and *Unser Beuucher*.
Physicians—Dr. P. W. Pauls, Dr. W. A. Piper.
Photograph gallery—Cornelius J. Brown.
Produce dealers—Hanford Produce Company, Worthington Produce Company.
Real estate dealers—Aug Buche Land Company, J. C. Koehn, D. A. Lahart Land Company.
Shoemaker—Henry Fiel.
Tin shop—J. V. Dueck.
Telephone—North Star Telephone Company, Tri-State.
Veterinary—Sidney Meyers.

ROSE HILL TOWNSHIP.

Rose Hill township is situated on the western line of Cottonwood county and is the second from the southern line. It comprises all of congressional township 106, range 38 west. It is bounded on the north by Westbrook township, on the east by Amo, on the south by Southbrook and on the west is the county line between Cottonwood and Murray counties. Originally, there were numerous lakes and prairie ponds within the limits

of this township, and there are still a few, but many of the lakes have been drained and their beds are utilized for pasture and field purposes. Among the lakes are Berry, Long and Carey lakes.

This is an excellent agricultural and dairy section and the farmers are rapidly becoming forehanded and wealthy. They have the modern conveniences of life, and are reaping the reward for the long years of struggle they had as homesteaders, against prairie fires and grasshoppers.

The population of the township in 1895 was 480; in 1900 it was 535 but by 1910, according to the United States census returns it had decreased to 510.

ORGANIZATION.

By an act of the board of county commissioners in the month of March, 1879, Rose Hill township was organized, and the board ordered the first township meeting and election of officers to take place on April 5, 1879, at the house of John Carey.

SOME EARLY LAND ENTRIES.

Maria Carey homesteaded land in the south half of the northwest quarter of section 24, at the land office at New Ulm, and had her patent issued to her from President Hayes, September 10, 1880.

Samuel Hoveland, at the Tracy land office, had a homestead entry on the northeast quarter of section 2, and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, May 15, 1884.

William Johnson homesteaded the south half of the northwest quarter of section 22, and had the entry made at the land office at Tracy and his patent was issued him by President Chester A. Arthur, January 15, 1885.

Henry Olsen homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 14, in the land office at Tracy and the same was patented to him by President Grover Cleveland, April 27, 1885.

Frank White, at the land office at Tracy, was given his homestead right in the southwest quarter of section 14, and the same was patented to him by President Grover Cleveland, January 9, 1886.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Clark W. Seeley, at the land office at New Ulm, entered the southwest quarter of section 4, this township; his final papers were signed by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Martin Kauchbaums, entered land at the land office at Marshall, described as lot No. 3, in section 26. President Benjamin Harrison signed the final papers, granting the patent.

George F. Robison, at the Marshall land office, entered the land known as lot No. 1, in section 12, the same having been signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, September 2, 1902.

SELMA TOWNSHIP.

The extreme northeastern congressional township in Cottonwood county is known as Selma; it comprises township 107, range 34 west, and is situated directly south of Brown county, west of Watonwan county, north of Midway township, Cottonwood county, and east of Delton township, this county.

A branch of the Chicago & Northwestern railway crosses this township, entering in section 3, running directly southeast, leaving the township and county from section 13. The Watonwan river and small tributaries are found flowing through this township. The soil is excellent and all the tillable land is now under a high state of cultivation. The village of Comfrey, Brown county, extends over into this township to a certain extent. Of the churches and schools of the township other separate chapters will treat. The population of the township in 1895 was 405; in 1900 it was placed at 427 and the United States census returns for 1910 gave it as having 530. There are no towns or villages within Selma.

ORGANIZATION.

Selma township was organized by the board of county commissioners at their regular meeting in March, 1874, and was then named Clinton township and why changed, or when, the records seem silent. It comprises township 107, range 34 west. The first election was called to be held at the house of D. T. Woodward, April 4, 1874.

"Ripley" township was organized at the same time and comprised township 108, range 34 west, which civil township has no history in this county, as it was immediately taken over by Brown county with another congressional township.

HOMESTEADS AND PRE-EMPTIONS.

Just who was the first white man to set stakes and make for himself a permanent home in this township is not now well established, even by tradition. But a careful search through the books of the register of deeds of the county, shows that the following were the original land entry persons, either as homesteaders or pre-emptors:

John W. Golden, homesteaded at the New Ulm land office, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 18, January 18, 1878, and his patent was signed by President U. S. Grant, and the entry was effected at New Ulm land office.

Lewis Coville entered, as a homestead at the New Ulm land office, July 12, 1878, the south half of the northeast quarter and the north half of the southwest quarter in section 32, his patent being signed by President U. S. Grant.

David Archibald claimed a homestead in the northeast quarter of section 12, October 6, 1878, and the patent was signed by President U. S. Grant.

Mathias Stoffel homesteaded on May 22, 1879, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 26, the patent being signed by President Hayes. The entry was made at the New Ulm land office.

Charles Anderson homesteaded land under the Homestead Act of 1862, in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10. It was entered at the land office in New Ulm and was patented by President Hayes and signed by him on January 20, 1881.

Thomas Cullen claimed his homestead rights in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 6; it was entered through the land office at New Ulm and was patented by President Hayes and signed on March 13, 1879.

Caroline Knudson homesteaded the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm, and was patented by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

Thomas Coen homesteaded land in the east half of the southeast quarter of section 6, and had the same patented to him by President Hayes, who signed it on March 13, 1879; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

Greta Jones Dater homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 14, at the land office at Tracy; the patent for this land was issued by President Chester A. Arthur, February 20, 1882.

Olf Peterson homesteaded the north half of the southeast quarter of section 26; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Hayes.

John Cullen homesteaded the east half of the northwest quarter of section 6; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Hayes, March 13, 1879.

Christian Anaker homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 24 at the land office at Tracy, and had the same patented to him by President Grover Cleveland, January 9, 1886.

Theodore P. Eickholt homesteaded the south half of the southeast quarter of section 26, at the land office at New Ulm, and received his patent from President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Howard M. Goss homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 34, at the land office at New Ulm, and received a patent signed by President U. S. Grant, September 15, 1874.

Ogden D. Warner homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 34, at the land office at New Ulm, and received his patent from President U. S. Grant, March 20, 1876.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Theodore J. Brandt, at the Marshall land office, entered under the Pre-emption Act, the northeast quarter of section 20, and his final papers were signed by President Grover Cleveland, January 3, 1894.

Lemuel Randall, at the New Ulm land office, pre-empted the north half of the southwest quarter of section 8, and April 10, 1875; President U. S. Grant certified to his papers and signed the same.

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP.

Springfield township is the second from the western line of the county and is on the south line, with Southbrook township at its west, Amo township at its north, Great Bend township at its east and Jackson county at the south. It comprises all of congressional township 105, range 37 west. The main stream and south branch of the Des Moines river flow from the southeast to the northeast of this township, forming the great bend, after leaving and entering Great Bend township. This is an excellent township and the farming interests are good. The people are of the thrifty type, who always

succeed in accumulating wealth. Once a barren prairie domain, it has, under the touch and labor of its settlers, come to be known as one of the finest in the county. Its groves, which were planted out by the thoughtful settlers, have come to be of great beauty and utility, both for the fuel and shelter they afford against the severe elements.

The population of Springfield township in 1895 was 351; in 1900 it was 361 and in the United States census reports for 1910 its population was given as only 332.

ORGANIZATION.

Springfield became a separate civil township by an act of the board of county commissioners in 1870, when Great Bend and a few more townships were organized. By a petition of a majority of the legal voters within township 105, range 37, west, the county commissioners decided to form this township, and fixed the day for the first township election for August 27, 1870, and appointed John Wilford, George W. McGaughey and R. A. Nichols as judges of the election. This was done at the county commissioners' meeting at Great Bend, before Windom had been made the seat of justice, the exact date being August 15, 1870.

PIONEERS AND LAND ENTRIES.

The following is a transcript of the homestead and pre-emption entries in this township:

Charles L. Hecox claimed the west half of the southeast quarter and the east half of the southwest quarter of section 34, of this township, March 28, 1878; signed by President U. S. Grant, and entered at the Worthington land office.

Cyrus N. Peterson homesteaded land in the south half of the northeast quarter of section 12, this township. His patent bears the date of July 20, 1877, and is signed by President Hayes. The land office issuing the papers was at Worthington.

Legrand B. Rolph homesteaded at the land office at Worthington, land in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 4; it was patented on November 5, 1878, and was signed by President Hayes.

Augustus McNeely claimed a homestead in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 32, also in the east half of the southwest quarter of the same section. His entry was effected at the land office at Jackson, and

the patent was signed by President U. S. Grant, the date being February 1, 1873.

Marshall C. Cummings homesteaded land in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 14; his patent bears the date of December 30, 1880, and is signed by President Hayes. The land was secured through the Jackson land office.

Freeman Trowbridge claimed land in the northwest quarter of section 4; his patent was dated June 15, 1880, and is signed by President Hayes; it was issued from the land office located at Worthington.

William W. Frost homesteaded land in the southwest quarter of section 22; the patent was signed by President Chester A. Arthur and dated March 15, 1882; it was secured at the land office at Worthington.

Abigail J. Green located a homestead in the east half of the southeast quarter of section 4. The patent was issued on November 5, 1878, and was signed by President Hayes. This was secured through the land office at Worthington.

William B. Williams homesteaded land in the southeast quarter of section 2. It was patented on June 15, 1880, and was signed by President Hayes; it was secured through the land office at Worthington.

Delia R. Norris homestead land in the southwest quarter of section 30. It was patented on June 15, 1879, and signed by President Hayes; the land was granted to the widow of William Norris and was secured at the land office at Worthington.

John W. Cummings homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 8, at the land office at Worthington, and his patent was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, April 5, 1883.

William Kane claimed as his homestead the south half of the northeast quarter of section 30, the entry being made at the Worthington land office and the final patent papers were signed by President Hayes on December 15, 1880.

Thomas R. Brown homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 12; it was entered at the land office at Worthington and the patent was furnished and signed by President U. S. Grant, July 5, 1876.

Horatio M. McGaughey homesteaded at the Jackson land office, the north half of the northeast quarter and the west half of the northeast quarter of section 24; it was patented to him by President U. S. Grant, April 15, 1874.

James E. Williams homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 20,

at the land office at New Ulm; the patent was granted to him by President U. S. Grant and signed on June 13, 1876.

John Surratt homesteaded the east half of the northeast quarter of section 32; it was entered at the land office at Worthington and patented by President Hayes, June 15, 1880.

John H. Reisdorph had patented to him on November 22, 1877, a homestead instrument signed by President U. S. Grant.

Charles F. Morley homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 30; it was entered at the land office at Worthington and patented to him by President Hayes, December 30, 1879.

Vinzing Fried homesteaded the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 32; it was entered at the land office at Worthington and his patent was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Orrin Nasson, at the Worthington land office, entered as a homestead the west half of the northeast quarter and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 12; it was patented to him by President U. S. Grant, January 12, 1875.

Zadock Day homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 8, at the land office at Worthington, and had same patented to him by President Grover Cleveland, April 10, 1886.

Josef Neufeld homesteaded the south half of the northeast quarter of section 32, at the land office at Worthington and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

George H. Aubrey, at the Worthington land office, entered a homestead in the north half of the southwest quarter of section 28, and had the same patented to him by President Hayes December 30, 1879.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Charles L. Hecox entered as a pre-emption claim at the land office at Jackson, the south half of the northwest quarter and the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34. His patent was granted him by President U. S. Grant, December 15, 1870.

Lewis L. Miner, at the Jackson land office, claimed under the Pre-emption Act of 1820, the north half of the northeast quarter of section 34, the same was patented to him by President U. S. Grant, September 17, 1872.

Jason Foss pre-empted the south half of the northeast quarter of section 28, at the Worthington land office, the same being patented by President U. S. Grant, November 3, 1876.

Polly Cone, at the Jackson land office, pre-empted the northeast quarter of section 10, the same being signed by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

Mary L. Briggs pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 24, at the Jackson land office, the instrument was signed by President U. S. Grant and signed February 1, 1872.

Orrin Nason pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 4, the transaction was made at the land office at Marshall, and it was under President Grover Cleveland's administration and by him signed April 12, 1893.

SOUTHBROOK TOWNSHIP.

Southbrook township is the southwestern civil sub-division of Cottonwood county and comprises congressional township 105, range 38 west. It is bounded on the west by Murray county, on the north by Rose Hill township, on the east by Springfield township and on the south by the county line between Cottonwood and Jackson counties.

Besides two good sized lakes in the southwestern part of this township, the Des Moines river flows from the west out of Murray county, entering this township in section 6 and flows through the southern portion, leaving the township from section 31, entering Springfield township.

This township has neither village nor railroad station, but is settled by a thrifty class of people, who are fast becoming independent. Many of the early homestead and pre-emption claims of the county were selected from parts of this township.

The population in 1895 was 318; in 1900 it was 350, but in 1910 it had decreased, on account of removals, to 303.

ORGANIZATION.

This township was organized by the county commissioners at their meeting in July, 1871, as comprising all of congressional township 105, range 38, west.

EARLY SETTLERS.

The records show the following persons to have been among the first to claim lands within this township:

Francis H. Moon, homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter and the west half of the southeast quarter of section 32, of this township,

December 7, 1877, the patent being signed by President U. S. Grant; the transaction was at the Jackson land office.

Manley T. White claimed the south half of the southeast quarter of section 26, on March 1, 1878, under President Grant's administration, the papers being issued from the Worthington land office.

Joseph Kane claimed a homestead in the northeast quarter of section 6, at the Jackson land office, the same being signed by President U. S. Grant, September 9, 1878.

Peter Olson homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 20, at the land office at Worthington, and his patent is signed by President Hayes, June 10, 1879.

Ole Rued claimed, as his homestead, at the land office at Worthington, the east half of the southwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 20, also land in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 20, same township. The patent was signed by President Hayes and dated November 5, 1878.

Lyman W. Oaks claimed as his homestead right land in lots 2 and 3 of section 8; he secured it at the land office at Worthington and the patent was signed by President Hayes, December 13, 1880.

William McPheeters homesteaded land in the northwest quarter of section 30, at the New Ulm land office; the patent was signed by President U. S. Grant, October 5, 1875.

Thomas A. Jones secured a homestead in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 22, the patent was signed by President Hayes, June 15, 1880; the entry was made at the Worthington land office.

John Crapsey homesteaded, at the Worthington land office, the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 30 and the lot known as No. 2, of the same section, all being within section 30. The date of the patent was November 20, 1880, and the papers were signed by President Hayes.

Norman Freeman homesteaded land in section 32, the entry was made at the land office in Worthington and the patent was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, April 5, 1883.

Josef Lerk homesteaded land in the north half of the northeast quarter and the north half of the northwest quarter of section 18, the date of the patent being April 5, 1883, signed by President Chester A. Arthur; the same was secured through the Worthington land office.

Charles Robbins homesteaded land in the east half of the southeast

quarter of section 30, this township. It was entered at the land office at Worthington and the patent is signed by President Hayes, December 30, 1880.

Roswell Dunsmore homesteaded land in the south half of the northeast quarter of section 26; it was entered at the land office at Worthington and was patented by President U. S. Grant, March 1, 1876.

John Erickson claimed the southwest quarter of section 34 this township and his patent for his homestead was issued June 5, 1884, and signed by President Chester A. Arthur; the entry was effected at the Worthington land office.

Watkin H. Jones homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 22, his patent being signed by President Chester A. Arthur, June 5, 1884; the entry was made at the land office at Worthington.

Charles W. Aldrich homesteaded land in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 32; it was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur and entered at the Worthington land office and signed on June 5, 1884.

Charles B. Handy, June 5, 1884, had patent issued to him for a homestead in the lots numbered 3, 4 and 5 of the section 30, the same being issued by President Hayes.

Annie K. Jentjen, at the Worthington land office, had issued to her as a homestead the land contained in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 2. The papers were signed by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Stephen Miranowski homesteaded land in the north half of the southeast quarter of section 10, the same being patented by President Hayes and signed on February 10, 1884; it was entered through the land office at Worthington.

James M. King homesteaded the land in northwest quarter of section 12, this township and same was patented to him by President Hayes and signed on June 10, 1879; the entry was made at the land office at Worthington.

John Kane homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 6, at the land office at Worthington, the same being patented by President Chester A. Arthur, April 10, 1880.

Thomas A. Jones homesteaded the west half of the northeast quarter of section 22, at the land office at Worthington, and had his patent issued by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Anton Reidl homesteaded the south half of the northwest quarter of

section 10, at the land office at Worthington, and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, April 10, 1882.

John Mathias entered as a homestead at the land office at Worthington the east half of the southeast quarter of section 2, and the tract was patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, August 1, 1883.

John Schneider, at the Worthington land office, entered as a homestead the west half of the northeast quarter of section 10, and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Florian Liepold entered, as a homestead at the land office at Worthington, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 12, and it was later patented to him by President Grover Cleveland, April 10, 1886.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Henry G. Conrad pre-empted land at the land office at Worthington, described as the south half of the southeast quarter and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 28, the papers being signed by President Hayes, September 4, 1879.

Bertha M. Johnson pre-empted the land known as lot No. 7 in section 30. The entry was effected at the land office at Worthington and the final papers were executed by President U. S. Grant, May 10, 1875.

Peter Jentzen, at the Worthington land office, entered under the pre-emption act, the northwest quarter of section 14; the final papers were signed by President Hayes, November 1, 1880.

Adam Fabe, at the Marshall land office, entered lot No. 1 in section 8, the papers being signed by President Benjamin Harrison, March 1, 1892.

Andrew J. Streeter, at the Jackson land office, pre-empted the east half of the northwest quarter of section 26, the papers being executed and signed by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

STORDEN TOWNSHIP.

Storden is situated in the northwestern part of Cottonwood county, it being the second from the north and the second from the western line of the county, with Highwater at the north, Amboy at the east, Amo at the south and Westbrook township at the west. It comprises all of congressional township 107, range 37, west. The Scandinavian people are the largest

landowners in this part of the county. The village of Storden is within this township.

Like many parts of the county, Storden originally had many low tracts of land, and small lakes abounded, but they were really little more than prairie swamps or sloughs, which, with the advent of the settlers, soon vanished by draining, until today the waste land in this township is quite small. The soil is of a rich quality and the grains and grasses grow in great luxuriance.

The population of the township in 1895 was 439; in 1900 it was 548 but by the taking of the Federal census in 1910 it was placed at 659.

ORGANIZATION.

This township was set apart as a separate civil township at the meeting of the county commissioners in March, 1875, and was first named Norsk, but subsequently changed to Storden. It comprises township 107, range 37, west, and was detached from Westbrook township. The first election was held at the house of Martin Hallan, March 30, 1875.

ORIGINAL SETTLERS.

The county records show the following to have entered land either as homesteaders or pre-emption claimants:

Jorgen Jensen homesteaded land in the lots known as Nos. 1 and 2, of section 21, the same being entered at the land office at New Ulm and patented by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Soren Sorenson claimed a homestead in the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 30; it was patented to him by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Christian A. Kaihor homesteaded in the north half of the northeast quarter of section 30, the same being entered at the land office at New Ulm; it was patented to him by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Halver E. Lohre homesteaded land in the east half of the southeast quarter of section 6; it was patented to him by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

C. Swenson claimed a homestead in the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 4. It was patented by President Hayes, February 10, 1881; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm.

Eston Erikson, claimed his homestead rights under the act of 1862, in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 6. It was entered at the land office at New Ulm and was patented by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Nels Gunderson homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 2, at the land office located at Tracy, and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, March 10, 1883.

Samuel S. Wheeler claimed as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 24 at the land office at Tracy and had the same patented by President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

John Nelson homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 20, at the land office at Tracy and the same was finally patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, May 31, 1884.

Ole Christopherson homesteaded the north half of the northeast quarter at the land office at Tracy, and the patent was issued to him by President James A. Garfield, June 21, 1881.

Hans Anderson homesteaded the north half of the southeast quarter of section 18, at the land office located at Tracy, and had his patent granted him by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

Leopold Hansen homesteaded land in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 2, and had the entry made in the land office at New Ulm, while his patent was granted by President Hayes, December 30, 1879.

Julia A. Khurd homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 28, at the land office located at Tracy and her patent was issued and signed by President Chester A. Arthur, January 15, 1885.

Albert N. Jeffers, at the Tracy land office, entered a homestead in the south half of the northeast quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 12, and had the same patented to him by President Chester A. Arthur, May 5, 1884.

Christian O. Mikkelson claimed as his homestead the northwest quarter of section 18, at the land office at New Ulm; President Hayes signed his patent on February 10, 1881.

Charles H. Reipke homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 26, the entry being made at the land office at Tracy and the patent was signed by President Grover Cleveland, May 20, 1885.

George Downs homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 10, the entry being effected at the land office at Tracy and his patent was issued by President Chester A. Arthur and by him signed on January 15, 1885.

Peter M. Paulson homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 34; the patent was issued by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Charles Dietz, at the New Ulm land office entered the west half of the northwest quarter of section 24, the papers being signed by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Rasmus Anderson, at the land office at New Ulm, entered the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 8, this township; his final papers were signed by President U. S. Grant, April 10, 1875.

Andrew P. Fortstrom, at the land office at Marshall, entered the land described as lot No. 9 in section 20, and had the same patented to him by President Benjamin Harrison, August 24, 1891.

August Pufahl, at the land office at Tracy entered the southwest quarter of section 12; the final papers were signed by President Grover Cleveland, January 20, 1886.

VILLAGE OF STORDEN.

Storden was platted by the Inter-state Land Company, July 8, 1903, and is situated in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 29, township 107, range 37, west. It is on the Curry branch of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad. Among the first historic events of this village were the following:

The auction sale of lots in what is now the village of Storden took place on July 9, 1903. The village is located in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 29. The village, although quite young, shows great signs of growth and prosperity, new and modern buildings being erected as fast as workmen can put them up.

The first man on the ground to do business was Mr. C. H. Shaner, who conducted a general store, where the confectionery store now stands. Nelson & Redding came next and occupied the store room now used by Mr. A. H. Anderson.

The first school teacher to teach in the village was Laura Iverson, who taught in the school building moved in from the Kahoi Anderson farm, about three-fourths of a mile north of the town.

John Sorenson built the first residence in the village, the one now occupied by the postmaster, James Morris. The house now occupied by Andrew Skoby was built about the same time.

The first brick building was erected by the Farmers' State Bank in the summer of 1916.

The first concrete building in the village was constructed in the spring of 1910 and is now occupied by Nelson & Christopherson as a garage, the first of its kind.

Among the very first business men and mechanics of the village were: C. H. Shaner, grocer; A. P. Frederickson, hotel; Roy Egger, blacksmith; John Skovley & Son, livery; A. M. Clark & Son, hardware; Henry Peterson, drayman; L. Dolliff, lumber company; St. John, elevator.

The depot at Storden was erected in 1904. The first business was that of C. H. Shaner; the first residence was erected by John N. Sorenson.

John Sorenson formerly owned the land now occupied by the village. The town was platted by the Inter-state Land Company, of Minneapolis, to whom Mr. Sorenson gave a one-half interest in the lots.

The plat of Storden is high, dry and sightly and not a finer and more natural business site exists on the Curry branch. The village is surrounded by hardy and industrious farmers, whose land is under a high state of cultivation. The main products of the farms are corn and oats, although an abundance of wheat, rye and barley are marketed each year. Five years ago, land could be procured in the community at sixty dollars per acre, while most of the land is now worth around one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre.

POSTOFFICE.

The Storden postoffice was established in 1903, with John Sorenson as the first postmaster. He served until December 1, 1905, when James Morris, the present postmaster, was appointed. The large postal receipts, which are larger than towns several times its size, bespeak credit for the postmaster and the community. For the past year they amounted to four thousand five hundred and eighty-seven dollars and twenty-six cents. One rural route serves the rural community.

BUSINESS INTERESTS.

In 1916 the business interests of Storden were in the hands of the following:

Auto garage—Nelson & Christopherson.

Bank—First State, Farmers' State.

Blacksmith—Andrew Jorgenson, Edward Smestad.

Barber—Roy Smestad.
Creamery—Storden Creamery Association.
Confectionery—John Rongstad.
Dray line—Adolph Olson.
Elevator—Farmers' Elevator, Olaf Lande.
Grocer—Farmers' Co-operative Store.
General dealers—A. H. Anderson, Storden Co-operative Company.
Hardware dealer—Storden Hardware Company.
Harness dealer—A. H. Nacarinus.
Hotel—Prime Hotel.
Implement dealer—Saleen & Jenson Company.
Lumber dealer—L. P. Dolliff & Company.
Livery—Adolph Olson.
Meat market—John Spiecker.
Newspaper—*Storden Times*.
Produce dealer—C. H. Shaner.

WESTBROOK TOWNSHIP.

The second township from the county line on the north is Westbrook, which comprises all of congressional township 107, range 38, west. It is bounded on the north by Ann township, on the east by Storden, on the south by Rose Hill township and on the west by Murray county. Westbrook village is within this civil township and is mentioned at length in this chapter. Originally, the township had many lakes and ponds, with several creeks, most of which water-courses have disappeared from the surface of the county as time has changed the conditions; ditches have been cut, tilting carried on for a number of years and, today, the waste land within the territory is small. The soil is very fertile and produces all the grain and grasses common to this latitude.

The school and churches have ever been prominent factors in the township and those are treated with others of the county in special chapters in this volume.

The population of the township in 1895 was 599; in 1900 it was placed at 688 and in the United States census returns for 1910 it is given as 579.

ORGANIZATION.

Westbrook township was organized at the meeting of the county board, September 6, 1870, upon the petition of thirty legal voters in township 107, range 30, west, and township 108, ranges 37 and 38, west, they asking that four congressional townships be organized into one civil township and that it be named Westbrook, and the board of county commissioners ordered it done and called the first election for the township to be held at the house of Morton Engebretson, Saturday, September 17, 1870, with election judges as follow: John Hanson, John Rotte and Hogan Anderson; the clerk was George W. Walker.

PIONEER SETTLEMENT.

The first comers to this township were very largely homesteaders and pre-emption claim men and women, who selected at some one of the Minnesota land offices such lands as they wanted on which to locate and build homes. Among such land entries the following is a complete list, as shown in the records at the Cottonwood court house:

Nels Engbretson, homesteaded the east half of the northwest quarter of section 12, July 9, 1878, and the patent for the same was signed by President U. S. Grant.

Hernt Johnson homesteaded the north half of the southeast quarter of section 20, at the New Ulm land office, November 7, 1879, and his patent was signed by President R. B. Hayes.

Erick Anderson claimed a homestead in the southeast quarter of section 18, this township, the same being secured at the land office at Tracy, and the patent is signed by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881.

Ole Sorenson homesteaded land in the northeast quarter of section 24, and the patent is dated February 10, 1881, and signed by President R. B. Hayes.

Olof Johnson homesteaded land in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 12; also in the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 12. This was entered at the land office at Tracy, and bears date of June 20, 1881, and is signed by President James A. Garfield.

Ole Anderson homesteaded land in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10, and it was secured at the land office at New Ulm and the patent is signed by President Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Syver Nielson homesteaded land in the west half of the northwest

quarter of section 12, the patent being signed by President James A. Garfield, June 20, 1881; the entry was effected at the Tracy land office.

Jacob Hansen homesteaded land in the west half of the northwest quarter of section 10; it was entered at the land office at New Ulm and was patented by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

Forjus T. Einertson homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 2, at the Tracy land office, and the same was patented by President Grover Cleveland, August 5, 1884.

Bernt Johnson homesteaded the south half of the northeast quarter of section 20, at the land office located at Tracy; his patent was granted by President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

Edward Erickson homesteaded the west half of the northwest quarter of section 8, at the land office at Tracy, the same being patented by President Chester A. Arthur, January 15, 1885.

Peter G. Lundman homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 18, at the land office at Tracy, the patent being granted by President Chester A. Arthur, May 15, 1884.

PRE-EMPTION CLAIMS.

Albert Olson pre-empted, at the St. Peter land office, the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 1, this township, President U. S. Grant signing the papers, April 1, 1872.

Jacob A. Anderson, at the land office at New Ulm, pre-empted the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 2, President U. S. Grant signing the papers, May 20, 1874.

Ole Andreas Pederson, at the land office at New Ulm, entered the east half of the southeast quarter of section 8, the papers being signed by President Hayes, May 24, 1879.

Oli Jonsson, at the land office at New Ulm, entered land in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 12, President U. S. Grant signing the papers, May 20, 1874.

John Christenson entered the south half of the northeast quarter of section 2, the papers being signed by President Hayes, November 10, 1877.

Nels Engbretson entered land in the southwest quarter of section 12, at the New Ulm land office and his papers were certified by President Hayes, January 20, 1881.

THE VILLAGE OF WESTBROOK.

Westbrook was platted June 8, 1900, by the Inter-State Land Company, in section 29, township 107, range 38 west.

Westbrook township contained the first settlers of the county, one authority stating that the first settler after the Indian massacre of 1862 was Joseph F. Bean and next, George B. Walker, followed by other families settling in Westbrook township. Thus it was that when the Currie branch of Omaha railroad was built through here in 1900, it tapped a magnificent farming region, well settled, rich and productive, the trade of which for many years was far from market. On 11th of July, 1900, the sale of lots was held for the now prosperous town of Westbrook, the buyers wading around in an oats field, which yielded forty bushels per acre, looking for corner stakes. This was the beginning of Westbrook. Previous to this time there had been an effort made to have the town started on what is now known as the west side, and for a while there was a restaurant, store and several "blind pigs." The present site of the town was the result of a disagreement between the townsite company and Adolph Peterson.

At the lot sale the highest price paid was six hundred dollars for the corner lot, now occupied by the First National Bank. The first people on the ground to do business was the L. P. Dolliff Lumber Company, with G. F. Streates as manager, and the Laird-Norton yards, with H. E. Daffer as manager. Sivert Norum had moved a shed from Storden in which he started a boarding house for the workmen, until he got up the building known as the Commercial Hotel, later occupied by the saloon of John Stitz. This was the first building in town and in addition to keeping boarders, Mr. Norum also sold the first groceries of the town in one room and was also the first postmaster. At that time, before the railroad was built, he carried the mail three times a week from Storden.

The next building was that of J. E. Nelson, the harness man, and about this time the town got busy and was a veritable beehive of all kinds of mechanics.

Schippel & Malschke started their large two-story brick block, twenty-five by one hundred feet, and the State Bank, later the First National, rushed to completion the finest two-story brick and stone building in the town, at a cost of five thousand five hundred and eighty dollars. This bank was organized, December 1, 1900, with an authorized capital of two hundred thousand dollars, twenty-five thousand of which was paid up. The first

officers were: President, J. W. Benson, of Heron lake; vice-president, B. N. Bodelson, of Dundee; cashier, J. O. Pearson, of Heron lake. Farmers and business men took an active interest in the bank and very soon it was among the strongest in the county.

St. John Brothers were the first in the field with a first-class store building, forty-six by seventy-two feet, with a storage house thirty by forty feet, all of which was opened for business on September 30. The post-office was moved into this building, January 7, 1901, and M. A. Johnson was appointed postmaster, Mr. Norum having resigned.

Wild & Spaulding built a large two-story frame building, together with a large warehouse for buggies and farm machinery. Other improvements made during the fall of 1900 were the Erickson two-story building, the Theo. Miller building, later occupied by J. E. Villa; the Dick Needhaus city meat market building, John Holland's saloon, Dorster & Fritsche's two-story implement house, later owned by Peterson & Norum; Silliman Brothers' big store and hall building, J. J. Hubin's furniture store and residence, the building occupied by O'Neill & McCormick's saloon and the building occupied by Rehnelt's pool hall. The city drug store and building was moved here from Dundee by E. F. Fricke.

The Kane-Slice Implement Company was the first to engage in the implement business. They constructed a large two-story warehouse, twenty-four by sixty feet, just west of the First National Bank.

Peter Anderson conducted the first livery in the barn to the rear of the hotel. Very soon afterwards Frank G. Myres put in the Westbrook livery and early on the ground with a well equipped blacksmith shop was John Bendixen.

Brown & Roberts had the barber shop, Getty & Green conducted a real estate office, W. G. Owens, attorney, and Dr. C. P. Nelson were the professional men.

At this time Dolliff & Company and Laird-Norton Company erected mammoth lumber sheds which were necessary in order to keep a sufficient supply of lumber on hands for the numerous buildings that were being constructed. Four large and first-class elevators were put up to meet the demands of the farmers, they being the ones of the St. John Brothers, Hubbard & Palmer, Renke Brothers and K. Krueger.

Evidently anticipating the rush of business the railroad company put in commodious yards and sidings connecting with the elevator and stock-yards, dug a deep well and installed a large water tank and just west of

town opened a gravel pit from which they ballasted the line from Currie to Bingham Lake.

Schueller & Welter, of Morgan, bought the Commercial Hotel, which was conducted by Frank Scheffert until April, 1902, after which time the town was several months without a hotel.

The west side continued to make show for business and J. D. Bevier and family had a restaurant and boarding house, a small general store and blacksmith shop. There was also a full fledged "reading room" besides several "restaurants." The county attorney closed the last named places and business on the west side declined until nothing is left except some of the buildings and the Krueger elevator. The west side is now one of the fine resident districts of the town and no longer is there any feeling of separation or distinction from the rest of the town.

Two large ice houses were built, one operated by Chris Hanson for the Westbrook Ice Company and one by Peterson & Carlson.

Up to May, 1901, some sixteen or eighteen residences had been built. B. E. Low was the first to move to town to live as a retired farmer, he coming from his farm near Lake Eliza. Johnson Brothers built and occupied the first good residence, later the property of Walter Larson. The homes of J. A. Pearson, Chris Hanson, George Spooner, S. Norum, P. D. Peterson, J. J. Christy, I. C. Freeman, Frank Meyers, W. F. Wenholz, B. E. Low, K. Krueger and Gustav Grams were among the principal residence improvements of the fall and winter of 1900.

INCORPORATION, ETC.

Previous to March, 1901, the village had no officers, and every man was a law unto himself, but at this time incorporation was made, an election held and the first set of officers chosen. They were as follow: Mayor, M. A. Johnson; councilmen, August Wild, W. H. Wenholz, G. A. Schippel; recorder, G. F. Streater; treasurer, J. A. Pearson; justices of peace, George Spooner and D. Needham; constable, D. J. Green; assessor, S. B. Stockwell; I. C. Freeman, marshal; attorney, W. D. Owen. The work of the first council for the good of the town will ever stand as a monument to their business sagacity and wise administration. At this time three saloons were licensed, at one thousand dollars each.

About May 1, P. H. Rupp built a shoe store, F. H. Fricke also put up a small shoe store. Among other improvements was the completion of

Doctor Nelson's corner drug store at a cost of two thousand dollars; Schip-pel's two-story brick block, adjoining the First National Bank, in the fall, at a cost of three thousand dollars; Sampson's restaurant, twenty by thirty-six feet, at a cost of five hundred dollars. D. H. Flynn bought and finished the two-story frame building started by John Kaeding. The *Sentinel* built a home, twenty by forty-eight feet, at a cost of nine hundred dollars. Linschied's two-story building, used as a photograph gallery, constituted the business improvements of the year. The Standard Brewing Company put up a large cold storage house the same year.

In 1902 the Commercial Club was formed and as a result of their hustle the town secured a splendid one hundred barrel flour-mill, costing sixteen thousand dollars. Land for the mill was secured between Hubbard & Palmer's and Krueger's elevators and the first active work was begun on May 8, by Bert Milligan, who started the mill. Mr. Gress, of the Sleepy Eye Milling Company, was at the head of the new enterprise. The mill was later destroyed by fire, and never rebuilt.

The following is a record of the tons of freight and car-load lots received and forwarded from January 1, 1902, to May 1, 1902. When these figures are compared with those of the same period of time today, it may be seen how great has been the growth of trade.

	Freight forwarded.	Car loads.
Total tonnage, merchandise, 5,981,125 pounds-----		160
Live stock -----		45
Total -----		205

	Freight received.	Car loads.
Total tonnage, merchandise, 4,861,033 pounds-----		115

A glance at the village will show that it has been quite active in the way of improvements. In 1902 the town installed a complete water-works system, at a cost of seven thousand dollars. The water is furnished by a well sixty-three feet deep, resting in lake sand. At one time a test was made to ascertain the strength of the well. Water was pumped out at the rate of forty-five gallons per minute, with the result that the water in the well was lowered only twelve feet, after which it was impossible to lower the supply. Water is pumped into a tank holding thirty-five thousand gallons and thereby the town is furnished with an abundance of water by means of strong pressure.

In January, 1915, an electric plant was put in at a cost of eight thousand dollars. The plant runs from about dusk in the evening until midnight. In the way of fire protection, they have an organized fire company of twenty-six men and an ample supply of fire equipment, such as hose, ladders, etc. The town has five miles of cement walks and each year more are added. The order in the town must be pretty good, because no marshal or policeman is on the pay roll and the "lock up" has a deserted appearance.

The presidents that have served the village are herein given in their order of service: M. A. Johnson, C. A. Zieske, D. H. Flynn, I. D. Annis, V. T. Miller, R. C. Soll, O. C. Anderson, J. E. Villa and W. F. Mead.

The present officers are inclusive of the following: President, W. E. Mead; trustees, M. J. Breen, Reinhold Ewy and A. L. N. Christianson; recorder, Jos Budish.

POSTOFFICE.

The Westbrook postoffice was established at about the same time the town was incorporated, Mr. Sivert Norum being appointed the first postmaster. Other men who have served in the same capacity are Andrew Lorson, M. A. Johnson, Clark W. Seely and John L. Sammons. The receipts for this office are the largest in the county, with the exception of Windom. Three rural routes distribute mail through the rural districts from this office. The receipts for the last fiscal year, exclusive of the money department, amounted to three thousand three hundred and sixty dollars.

WESTBROOK STREET FAIR.

On October 1, 1901, a meeting was held in Ancient Order of United Workmen hall for the purpose of organizing a street fair association. William G. Owens was made the temporary chairman. The meeting proceeded to elect officers and the following were chosen: President, William G. Owens; vice-president, M. A. Johnson; secretary, W. B. Leo; treasurer, J. A. Pearson; executive committee, J. E. Villa, Ed. Loomis and J. J. Christy. Six hundred dollars were offered in premiums. The first fair was a success, as were those which followed. It was estimated that five thousand people attended and enjoyed the features usually found at a county fair, such as the baby show, wild west, merry-go-round, vaudeville, etc.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY FOR 1916.

The business interests of Westbrook in July, 1916, were in charge of the following:

- Auto garage—Pederson & Ludwickson, E. Paetznick, Grant Ross.
Attorney—John L. Sammons.
Banks—First National, Citizens State.
Barber—Edward Dietchman.
Blacksmith—E. A. Paetznick, James Sorenson.
Clothing—Cohrs & Ewy.
Dray line—John Simning.
Drugs—Walter E. Mead.
Dentist—F. M. Miller.
Elevator—John J. Christy, Farmers Elevator Company, C. Krueger, F. Romke.
Furniture—Hans J. Christianson.
General dealer—George Woodward, Westbrook Co-operative Company.
Grocer—G. A. Scheppel.
Hotel—The Westbrook.
Harness—J. E. Nelson.
Hardware—Footh Brothers, Bengton & Sons.
Ice dealer—John Simning.
Implement dealer—Westbrook Implement Company, R. Ewy.
Jeweler—Theo. J. Arneson.
Lumber dealer—Botsford Lumber Company, L. P. Dolliff & Company.
Livery—John E. Anderson.
Milliner—Anastacia Travel.
Meat market—Falk Brothers.
Motion picture show—The Dixie.
Newspaper—*The Sentinel*.
Physician—H. A. Schmidt.
Produce dealer—Hansford Produce Company.
Photograph gallery—T. F. Leavitt.
Restaurant—T. P. Anderson.
Real estate—R. L. Eckert Land Company.
Stock dealer—Westbrook Stock Buyers Association, Charles Pasmore.
Veterinary—E. R. Tillisch.
Telephone—Windom Mutual and Northwestern.

Westbrook, although in its infancy, impresses a stranger as being the most city-like village in the county. It has wide and well-improved streets, which are clean and unusually well lighted with electric lights. It is one of the very few towns of its size in southern Minnesota that owns its own



HIGH SCHOOL, WESTBROOK.



MAIN STREET, WESTBROOK.



FARM SCENE NEAR WESTBROOK.



DOUBLE LAKES DRIVE NEAR WESTBROOK.

power and water plant. It can boast of a newspaper that has a wide circulation, a model of its kind and one which does credit to the town and the community.

Westbrook is a town of beautiful homes and well-kept lawns; a place especially well suited and inviting to the homeseeker, because there is found almost any religious denomination one may seek and a school system that would do credit to a town many times its size.

In the western part of town is a park that the town board bought of Whited, the townsite man, a short time after the town was laid out, for the nominal sum of one thousand dollars. The park is not merely a square lot with a few trees scattered here and there, but, instead, one sees trees of various species, symmetrically placed and of a uniform size. The park is well supplied with inviting seats and chairs and is thoroughly lighted with electric lights. Westbrook's first annual chautauqua, held July 9 to 14, 1916, was held in the park, which made an ideal location. Up to this time there were many people in the village and vicinity who did not realize what a fine place for such a gathering the town has. The chautauqua was a success in every detail.

It has been stated upon good authority that Westbrook has as much business as the other towns on the Currie branch combined, which, if true, we predict that in the next decade she will be second to none in the county as a business center. At the time the townsite was laid out, it was considered the best on the Currie branch, as it was surrounded by a magnificent territory of rich farming lands, which had been settled for many years by thrifty and progressive farmers, many of whom were homesteaders twenty-five to thirty years ago. The location of Westbrook is an admirable one from a business standpoint, speaking geographically. It is on the west side of Cottonwood county, a little over a mile from the Murray county line and is about the center of the county on a north and south line, twenty-eight miles from Windom and has a wide trade territory in every direction.

As an index of the growth and improvements in the town from July 11, 1900, to May 1, 1901, one need notice only the assessed valuations. The assessed value of building improvements was forty-four thousand dollars. On May 1, the personal property valuation was seventy-four thousand five hundred and twenty-two dollars. These values did not include real estate.

CHAPTER VII.

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY.

Agriculture in all ages of the world's history has been man's chief industry and substantial support. There is only a comparatively small percentage of the earth's surface on which good crops can be produced. The grains and grasses and fruits and vegetables can only be found growing in limited portions of the globe, and the man who lives in a crop belt and owns a farm, be it small or large, is the most independent being on earth. When all other industries fail, he still is called upon to provide food for the earth's population. There are certain localities where the great harvests of wheat, corn and other bread-stuff products can be seen in their annual beauty and wealth. This section of the United States is confined largely to the great Mississippi and Missouri valleys. Hence, he who is fortunate enough to have his farm located in any one of the central western states, including Minnesota, is indeed fortunate. Among the counties where corn, wheat, oats, grasses, fruits and vegetables grow in abundance, and a crop failure is seldom recorded, we find Cottonwood classed among the foremost.

The manner of farming and the class of products have changed materially in the last third of a century. Then it was wheat and oats and flax almost entirely; now the successful farmer is a believer in and grower of corn and the feeding of stock and butter-making. Not alone have the crops changed, but the machinery with which all farm work is now done is vastly different from that employed when Cottonwood county was organized forty-six years ago. True, they had harvesters and mowers, but not such as we use today. We had to wait years for a successful self-binder; first, the Walter A. Wood wire binder; then the real "binder," the Appleby, invented by a Minnesota man, came into universal use. The harvesting period has been shortened. The hay-making machinery is another innovation of the farm. The old "bull" rakes with wooden teeth are no more known. This generation never operated one.

The hay-rakes, the hay-forks and all stacking machinery are built on a different plan than those our fathers used. We can put up twenty times as much hay in a given time as they could. The corn-planter, cultivator, walk-

ing and riding plows, and disks and a hundred and one machines, including the thresher and the corn harvesters, have all come into use long since the homesteader plodded over this county, content to use what machinery his time afforded. He worked longer days and rode in nothing like an automobile, yet to him we owe the present prosperity of Cottonwood county. He remained here through all sorts of adversities, until the sun of better days began to light up the former gloom.

A day's drive through any one of the townships of this county will present to the tourist a scene at once charming and one which is ever a feast to the eye of one who has an eye for beauty and an appreciation of the great agricultural interests of southern Minnesota. Here one sees the well-tilled farms, the tame grasses, the fattening stock, the well-built, well-painted farm houses, and the surrounding barns and shedding, with silos towering up to show what modern agriculture really has accomplished. With the farm, the stock, the dairy, the poultry, the fruit orchard and excellent garden, no one can question the statement that these people are a favored people.

POULTRY SHOW.

Windom's first annual poultry show took place in December, 1907, and was one of the best and biggest this part of the state ever saw. Birds were brought from many parts of Minnesota and Iowa, and a great interest was manifested. It was organized with the intention of making it a permanent institution and of doing lasting good to the county and community.

EARLY AND PRESENT STOCK FARMS.

Among the first great horse-breeding farms of Cottonwood county was that established in the spring of 1892 by Charles Thompson. It was known as the "Riverside Stock Farm," and is situated just opposite Windom, across the Des Moines river and comes down to the water's edge. Here more than one hundred thousand dollars was expended for stock and building, including a twelve-thousand-dollar imported stallion. Both the barns and residence were constructed on modern plans. The grounds were laid out by landscape gardeners and the lawn was viewed by hundreds, who pronounced it among the finest in Minnesota. Mr. Thompson built a fine race track, a half-mile in length, the whole being enclosed by a high tight board fence, so that neither animals nor drivers could in any possible manner be injured. A large pasture was fenced in with boards, the enclosure hav-

ing about three hundred acres within it. This pasture has the Des Moines river running through it for at least a distance of one mile, and it was skirted with sufficient timber to insure shelter and shade from the sun's hot rays. It was divided into large paddocks where the brood mares were safely kept on the finest growth of blue grass. In his barns and pastures there were kept some of the most valuable and handsome horses to be found in the United States, some of which were closely related to "Nancy Hanks," which animal in 1892 broke all records for speed in trotting races in this country. The superintendent in 1892-3 was W. D. Wright and the foreman was James Hanton, together with trained horsemen from the Kentucky horse farms.

After the death of Mr. Thompson, the enterprise went down and gradually the place was subdivided and allowed to go out of the horse breeding business and is now used for general farming purposes, but not particularly devoted to blooded horses. Mr. Thompson was a mute and the son of a wealthy land-owner of St. Paul; both father and son are now deceased, and the vast landed estate includes the largest farm land acreage in Minnesota by any one family. It is cared for now by Mr. Kendall, formerly of Windom.

In the nineties, the following appeared in the local newspaper:

"One of the wide-awake progressive stock men of the county is John Paulson, who is the owner and proprietor of the "Three Lake Stock Farm." He makes a specialty of Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and Shropshire sheep. He has quite a reputation as a breeder of thoroughbred stock and his blooded animals are found throughout the state of Minnesota."

The present blooded-stock raisers include the following: Ole O. Knutson, Ann township; Helga Johnson, Ann township; Hanson & Nackerund, Ann township; Peter Nelson (Shorthorn cattle), Westbrook township; O. H. Smeby, Westbrook township, fancy hogs, etc.; J. A. Christianson (Holstein cattle), Westbrook township; N. J. Henkels, Southbrook township; J. B. Savage, Delton township; N. P. Minion, Delton township; Charles W. Stark, Selma township; John J. Quiring, Midway township; Emil Paulson, Dale township; E. J. Gove, Lakeside township; D. W. Weld, Windom; Henry D. Peters, Dale township; T. V. & Lula Fisk, Selma township. Besides the foregoing there are many more smaller farms where fine stock breeding is carried on to quite an extent. The county has prospered more since the fine stock and dairy business has been established than in all the previous years in the history of Cottonwood county.

THE CREAMERY INDUSTRY.

Men and women still living in Cottonwood county, remember, when children and youths, the old dash churn and what a tedious task it was to get butter "to come" by the constant plying of the old upright dasher. In winter the cream was said to be too cold and hot water was turned into the stoneware churn, and in summer it was said to be too hot, so the housewife placed cold water in the churn. Sometimes it never did come as first-class butter, but usually the patience of the good housekeeper was rewarded with a crock of butter which had to be worked and packed in tubs or jars and finally sold or exchanged for groceries, at from seven to twelve cents per pound.

A little later the system was changed and what was known as the "submerged can" was brought into use. Deep cans holding several gallons of milk were placed in tanks filled with water and kept cool, till the cream was fully raised to the top when it was skimmed out and sold to the butter dealer, who sometimes collected and at other times demanded it be brought to the butter factory.

Then, again, the dealer preferred to have the farmer bring him "unsalted" butter, and the butter-maker would then take all grades of unsalted butter and mix them together and usually add plenty of Wells-Richardson's butter color, which was the staple article from ocean to ocean, for making the otherwise white butter an even yellow color. Times have changed; now the pure food laws will not admit of colored butter in many states of the Union.

Then came the modern creamery with the improved Danish separator, which in a few moments extracts every particle of the butter-fat from the milk. This was a great change and the system has spread throughout the entire dairy section of the country. Creameries have been established in almost every township of the counties. Some are private, some corporation and many are farmer's co-operative concerns, but of whatever character they may be, they have proven of great financial benefit to the community in which they are operated. Cottonwood, with many of her sister counties, is by nature a good dairy section. The farmer who in the last two decades has paid strict attention to keeping and caring for good milk cows, has come to be the most successful of any of the agriculturists in the country. The bank accounts have constantly increased and the farmer's family have been able to indulge in many of the luxuries which the early wheat-growing farmer knew nothing of.

It is to be regretted that the statistics of the dairy and creamery industry of this county have not been collected and made a matter of record, save in a few instances. The raising of fine stock and the production of butter are important factors in the wealth of the county. The creamery, especially, is what has made Minnesota famous. The immense crops of wheat for flour-making purposes, together with these creameries, have given the state the name of the "bread and butter state." Cottonwood county, so long ago as the World's Fair at Chicago, in 1893, was styled the "Blue Grass county" of Minnesota.

During 1907 the Dovary Creamery Company, of this county, issued the following statement: Total number of patrons, one hundred and seventy-five; pounds of butter-fat, one hundred and sixty-two thousand; total number of pounds of butter, one hundred and eighty-seven thousand; per cent of over-run, fourteen and nine-tenths; average price per pound for butter-fat, twenty-five and one-half cents; total amount paid patrons, forty-one thousand four hundred and thirty dollars and sixty-one cents.

The present Farmers' Co-operative Creamery at Storden began its operations in the month of May, 1916, under the management of Anton Madson. The old creamery burned and was replaced by the present one in 1915. This plant has a capacity of six thousand pounds of butter fat per week, but the present output is averaging about three thousand five hundred pounds per week. The entire products are marketed in New York City.

At Bingham Lake the creamery is a private concern and is now the property of George O. Fisher, who recently purchased it of H. E. Hakes, now of Windom. This is one of the few creameries that calls for and delivers milk and cream. At this date the owner has two delivery routes. About one hundred and fifty patrons are served by this plant, which is turning out on an average of three thousand five hundred pounds of butter-fat per week, all of which finds a ready sale at a fair price in the markets of New York City.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

The first fair association, or agricultural society, organized in this county was the one formed at a meeting at the school house in Windom, July 15, 1882, at which date the following officers were elected: President, C. F. Warner, and about twenty vice-presidents from the various townships and villages in the county. On July 29, 1882, a constitution and by-laws were adopted and the membership fee fixed at fifty cents per member. About one hundred joined the society in the county and two hundred fair premium lists

were printed and distributed. At the first annual fair the marshal of the day was Paul Seeger. In 1886 the society purchased forty acres of land, including the present fine fair grounds at Windom. They paid one thousand two hundred dollars for this tract of land and in 1889 sold sixteen acres of it for the same sum.

In autumn, 1916, Cottonwood county held its thirty-fifth annual county fair on the grounds located in Windom, and which are provided with the best improvements to be found in any county in the state, outside the large cities like St. Paul and Minneapolis. The county now draws from two to four hundred dollars per year from the state fund, per legislative enactment of several years ago.

Cottonwood has had several organizations for agricultural fair purposes, but they all come within the period since 1874. The following is gleaned from the *Windom Reporter*, connecting the first organization of a county agricultural society:

"The first agricultural society in Cottonwood county was organized in Windom, February 1, 1874, with thirty or forty members. The first officers included the following: A. A. Soule, president; S. B. Stedman, vice-president; William Prentiss, secretary; S. O. Taggart, treasurer; executive committee, S. E. Ford, George Haigh and J. F. Bean. J. W. Benjamin and D. C. Davis were elected delegates to attend the meeting of the State Agricultural Society, February 4, 1874."

In July, 1882, a meeting was held at the school building for the purpose of reviving the Agricultural Society. C. F. Warren called the meeting to order. After stating the purpose of the meeting, the subject of a county fair for the coming fall was discussed and it was unanimously decided to hold one. A new election of officers took place, with the following result: C. F. Warren, president; Fred Carpenter, vice-president; F. M. Dyer, secretary; executive committee, John Clark, J. F. French, A. E. Woodruff and J. Cutler. Vice-presidents were chosen according to townships. S. H. Soule, Mountain Lake; S. Blackman, Selma; J. S. Narmore, Delton; M. T. Dewolf, Lakeside; S. M. Espey, Great Bend; A. A. Start, Dale; H. H. Potter, Amboy; Chris Brand, Germantown; George Quevli, Highwater; Rasmus Anderson, Storden; D. C. Ashley, Amo; G. S. Redding, Springfield; W. J. Jones, Southbrook; Henry Trautfeather, Rose Hill; A. L. Larson, Westbrook; Chris Anderson, Amo. The old constitution was adopted, subject to amendment. The management was to be almost entirely in the hands of the farmers.

Officers: W. F. Sanger, president; L. C. Churchill, secretary; T. A.

Perkins, treasurer; C. E. Ware, C. C. Morey and W. W. Hunter, vice-presidents; P. G. Neufeld, Gus Miller, Fred Moser and Dr. F. E. Judd, directors.

Superintendents: Horses—Dr. F. E. Judd; cattle—D. A. Noble; sheep and swine, C. E. Ware; grain, seeds, vegetables and fruits—W. W. Hunter; floral, domestic, fancy work—P. G. Neufeld; machinery and automobiles—F. Moser; rural and graded schools—Alf R. Iverson; races and privileges—W. F. Sanger.

Cottonwood county has long been noted for its excellent county fairs. This bespeaks much for the intelligence as well as enterprise of its farmers and business men, all doing their full share to make these annual exhibits a success. This year is its thirty-fifth fair.

PRIZES FOR FARM EXHIBITS.

The customary amount of \$80 will be offered for farm exhibits again this year. This feature has become so popular that other fairs have adopted it, and we want to still retain the lead by having some splendid exhibits. The prizes will be divided as follow: \$30, \$20, \$15 and \$5. This exhibit, which must be grown during 1916, and the points upon which they will be marked when judging is done, shall consist of threshed grain, 100 plants; sheaf grain, 100 points; corn 200; native grass, 50; tame grass, 100; forage, 100; potatoes, 100; stock, vegetables, 50; miscellaneous, 100. Every article exhibited must be raised by the exhibitor. A space will be allotted to each exhibitor, if they will notify the secretary, L. C. Churchill, that they intend to enter the contest. This space can be fixed up as tastily as the exhibitor may desire, and the booth decorations will count in the awarding of the prizes, 100 points.

FARM NAMES.

By a wise provision of the state of Minnesota law-makers, each register of deeds is provided with a book in which may be recorded the name, location and owner's name of farms within the county. A fee of fifty cents is all that is charged for such recording, and all who value a name and are landowners in a county should have pride enough to so record a name for their farm. The following have so far taken advantage of this opportunity in Cottonwood county since the law became effective:

The "New Leland Farm," by E. C. Morck, June 21, 1910, in section 9, township 107, range 37 west.

"Willow Glen," March 11, 1911, in the northeast quarter of section 28, township 107, range 36 west, by John A. Kees, Jr.

"Valley Dale Stock Farm," March 12, 1912, by Alvin Rand, in the northwest quarter and the north half of the southwest quarter of section 35, township 106, range 36 west.

"Eureka Farm," in the north half of the northeast quarter of section 30, and the east half of the southwest quarter of section 19, township 108, range 37 west, by I. O. Iverson.

"Greenwood Farm," March 22, 1913, by H. J. Fast, in the east half of the southeast quarter and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 12, township 105, range 34 west, and the west half of the southwest quarter of section 6, township 105, range 33 west.

"Highcroft," November 8, 1913, by C. W. Gove, in the south half of the northwest quarter of section 24, township 105, range 36 west.

"Morningside," November 8, 1913, by C. W. Gove, in the north half of the southwest quarter of section 24, township 105, range 36 west.

"Sunnyside," by D. U. Weld, in section 35, township 105, range 36. Date, January 20, 1914.

"Springvale Stock Farm," February 18, 1913, by Henry D. Peters, in the northeast quarter of section 36, township 106, range 36.

"Fairview Farm," February 24, 1914, Lars M. Olson, in the northeast quarter of section 5, township 106, range 37 west.

"Germantown Stock Farm," March 21, 1914, by Emil Pankomis, in the northeast quarter of section 32, township 108, range 36 west.

"Wild Wood Farm," May 8, 1914, by B. W. Gove, in the southeast quarter of section 2, township 106, range 38 west, and the west half of the southeast quarter of the same town and range.

"Clover Brook Farm," August 18, 1914, Mr. Mathisson, in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 22, township 108, range 38 west.

"Fairhurst Farm," by A. G. Mareness, in the northwest quarter of section 11, township 105, range 36 west, February 11, 1915.

"Lakeside Stock Farm," by E. J. Gove, in the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 105, range 35 west, March 24, 1915.

"Bonanza Stock Farm," March 26, 1915, by H. E. Hanson, in the southwest quarter of section 17, township 108, range 38, and the northwest quarter of section 20, same town and range.

"Grand View Farm," April 7, 1915, by John Malady, in the northeast quarter of section 26, township 105, range 35 west.

"Lake Shore Farm," June 23, 1915, by August H. Steigelmeyer, in the northwest quarter of section 10, township 105, range 35 west.

"Maplehurst Farm," February 14, 1916, by Christop A. Goring, in the southwest quarter of section 24, township 107, range 34 west.

"Clover Leaf Farm," March 21, 1916, by H. P. McElroy, in the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 9, township 107, range 37 west.

"American Stock Farm," by T. V. and Lula Fisk, June 19, 1916, all of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 107, range 34 west, and the west half of the northeast quarter of the same town and range.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

The state reports show that in 1913 Cottonwood county had in operation seven creameries, with an output of 671,317 pounds of butter. The live stock of the county at that date was as follow: Horses, 11,761; cattle, 29,510; sheep, 5,547; swine, 17,532. Land was sold at from eighty-five dollars to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre.

The crop average was as follows in 1913: Corn, 62,069; oats, 57,498; wheat, 13,937; barley, 26,854; rye, 5,662; flax, 2,000; potatoes, 950; hay, 63,830.

In 1895 the agricultural reports for the state by counties gave the following for Cottonwood county:

Number of farms improved—1,700; creameries, 6; forest trees planted and growing, 3,920 acres; rods of trees along highways, 10,420; total of bearing apple trees, 3,563; apple trees growing, 14,400; grape vines bearing, 3,595.

Live stock: Cows, 5,880; sheep, 7,310; cattle under three years old, 4,632; horse three years and over, 5,632; hogs, 6,621; sheep (sheared), 7,310; sheep raised, 9,211.

Field crops: Acres of wheat, 57,000; oats, 36,000; corn, 19,167; barley, 10,761; rye, 288; buskwheat, 46; potatoes, 935; sugar cane, 60; tame hay, 4,620; flax, 9,000.

Going back to 1890, it is found by the agricultural reports that there were raised: Wheat, 400,000 bushels; oats, 708,000 bushels; corn, 140,000 bushels; barley, 31,000 bushels; potatoes, 32,000 bushels; flax seed, 133,000 bushels; tons of tame hay, 4,425; prairie hay, 43,000 tons.

CORN ADVANCING YEARLY.

In 1880 the growth of Indian corn in this county was looked upon by the farmer and landowner as among the doubtful problems, and not considered at all practical. That year there were planted 4,000 acres of corn and 8,000 acres in oats and barley. But the reports of 1893 show that there were raised 644,000 bushels of wheat; 587,000 bushels of oats and 349,000 bushels of corn; barley, 272,000 bushels. The same year the county produced 545,000 pounds of butter for shipment.

NUMBER OF FARMS, ETC.

In 1880 there were 867 farms in Cottonwood county; in 1893 the number was 1,515, and on these there were 7,000 horses and mules; 10,200 head of cattle; 24,000 sheep, and 4,000 hogs.

COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION PREMIUM.

At the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 a Windom man took the prize for the gold medal offered on butter from a dairy plant. In 1908 it was said: "There are numerous creameries in this county and those adjoining it. These are mostly on the co-operative plan, and their product sells in the New York city markets at the top prices, having often brought more than the famous Elgin, Illinois, butter. The Windom Creamery has just captured the second prize at the International Butter Makers' Association contest at Minneapolis. These two counties—Jackson and Cottonwood—are capable of easily sustaining a hundred creameries."

The Windom Creamery Company, organized in 1894, had a capital of four thousand dollars and was a co-operative concern, made up of the business men and farmers of this county, in the vicinity of Windom. In 1900 its books show they sold twenty-five thousand dollars' worth of butter in the markets of the East. It had the largest number of hand separators of any creamery in Minnesota and its equipment was the best to be had at that date. J. A. Hanson, a native of Brown county, was the butter-maker—and there was none better in Minnesota then.

STOCK MEN OF 1908.

A local paper printed in 1908 speaks thus of the fine stock men of this county: "Some of the finest stock in the state is raised in the vicinity of Windom. Mr. Van Nest's Shorthorn drove, headed by a thousand-dollar bull; Mr. Waters' famous herd of thoroughbred and grade Shorthorns; Mr. Converse's splendid herd of the same breed; Grant Brothers' Polled Angus; Mr. Weld's beautiful herd of Galloways; Lars Anderson's Galloways; Ole Knudson's Shorthorns; Mr. Einertson's Holsteins; H. Sherman's Jerseys, and Silliman Brothers' Polled Angus have proven the adaptability of this county for the raising of fine stock. Cottonwood county ships many head of blooded cattle to other states."

In 1910 there were in Cottonwood county twelve creameries, the output of which was 566,405 pounds of butter. Live stock—Horses, 9,806; cattle, 23,543; sheep, 9,067; swine, 12,312. The assessment books at the auditor's office show that the acreage in 1912 for this county was as follows: Corn, 50,891; oats, 62,175; wheat, 17,707; barley, 23,222; flax, 65,191; potatoes, 58,028.

CHAPTER VIII.

SECRET AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

In all civilized portions of the globe today there are found various civic and secret orders—men banded together to work for each other's good. There was a time when many of the religious sects would not tolerate connection with such societies by members of their denominations. Especially did the Masonic and Odd Fellow fraternities have a struggle to establish themselves in many parts of this country and in Europe. The feeling was bitter, no doubt, on account of their ignorance on the workings and aims of these ancient orders. But with the passing of years and a better understanding of such orders and the many good, benevolent deeds seen in the community, as a result of such lodges, many of the broader churches favored such organizations, and the pastors and rectors of the churches were numbered among the "brightest Masons," and the same was true, at a later date, of the Odd Fellow order. There are still some religious sects who do not believe it right to have secret societies, but they are in a small minority.

In the settlement of every new county there have been found a few Free Masons and Odd Fellows who, as soon as a sufficient number had made settlement near to one another, organized themselves into lodges. This was true in Cottonwood county, for the Masonic lodge at Windom was organized two years after the county was organized.

MASONIC LODGES.

Masonry is the oldest secret order that is now known to have existed in the world. It is well represented in America, as well as all other enlightened parts of the globe. With almost every band of sturdy pioneers there are found members of this order, and as soon as any considerable settlement has been effected a lodge is instituted.

Prudence Lodge No. 97, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Windom, was formed in April, 1872, when they worked under dispensation, which continued until February 1, 1873, when a lodge was organized. The first officers to serve under dispensation were as follow: C. C. Purdy, worshipful master; C. L. Hubbs, senior warden; W. H. Wilson, junior warden;

S. M. Espy, secretary; C. H. Smith, treasurer; R. R. Jenness, senior deacon; S. S. Johnson, junior deacon; H. Klock, tyler. The charter of this lodge is dated January 15, 1873. The total present membership is one hundred and twenty-two.

The elective officers in 1916 were as follows: Jens Anderson, worshipful master; Earl Marshall, senior warden; S. L. Rogers, junior warden; J. O. Thompson, senior deacon; T. E. Dickey, junior deacon; E. A. Sims, treasurer; Andrew Elness, senior steward; F. J. Carpenter, junior steward; Nels Anderson, chaplain; George E. LeTourneau, tyler, and John J. Rupp, secretary.

The lodge owns the Masonic Temple, built in 1903, at an expense of about fifteen thousand dollars. It is a brick and stone structure of strictly modern style throughout. Before this was erected the lodge had a frame hall for many years.

There is no other Masonic lodge within Cottonwood county, only the one located at Westbrook.

Windom Chapter No. 48, of Royal Arch Masons, at Windom, the only one in Cottonwood county, was organized on December 3, 1886, by deputy grand high priest, I. P. Durfee. The date of the charter granted this chapter was October 12, 1886. The first officers were: R. R. Jenness, most eminent high priest; W. B. Cook, king; Orrin Nason, scribe; T. C. Collins, captain of host; C. A. Ludden, royal arch captain; J. S. Kibbey, master of third veil; S. S. Johnson, master of second veil; T. J. Hunter, master of first veil; A. D. Perkins, treasurer; R. M. Priest, secretary; George Miller, sentinel; George E. LeTourneau, principal sojourner.

The chapter now enjoys a membership of fifty-five, a number of whom do not reside in Windom, as the chapter is made up of those from surrounding towns in Minnesota.

The officers in 1916 were as follow: E. A. Sims, most eminent high priest; G. E. LeTourneau, king; F. J. Carpenter, scribe; Nels Anderson, captain of host; R. D. Collins, principal sojourner; T. E. Dickey, royal arch captain; John Anderson, master of third veil; Ani. Elness, master of second veil; J. O. Thompson, master of first veil; A. F. Strunk, treasurer; John J. Rupp, secretary; J. B. Benson, sentinel.

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR.

Arbutus Chapter No. 169, Order of Eastern Star, at Windom, was organized February 16, 1904, by W. D. Haycock, worthy grand patron of the

grand lodge of Minnesota, and received its charter on June 27, the same year, from Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, worthy grand matron of the Minnesota grand lodge. The charter members were as follow:

Mrs. Georgia M. Carpenter, Mrs. Florence A. Perkins, Mrs. Jennie M. Priest, Mrs. Ellen S. Anderson, Mrs. Ellen E. French, Mrs. Violet P. Kibbey, Mr. James S. Kibbey, Mrs. Jeannette S. Weiser, Mrs. Lucinda Clark, Mr. John F. French, Mrs. Hattie G. Perry, Mrs. Julia H. Quevli, Mr. Edward A. Sime, Mr. Reuben M. Priest, Mr. George E. LeTourneau, Mrs. Mary B. LeTourneau, Mrs. Priscilla A. Cone, Mr. Frederick J. Carpenter, Mrs. Lagertha W. Mann, Mr. Milo T. DeWolf, Mrs. Louise E. DeWolfie, Mr. William B. Cook, Mrs. Mabelle Stuart, Mrs. Ada Belle Collins, Mr. Thomas C. Collins, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Nason, Mr. Orrin Nason, Mrs. Emma L. Van Nest, Mrs. Mary E. Robison, Miss Marie Quevli, Mrs. Alice S. Kelley.

The total number of members is now eighty-five. The first elective officers were: Mrs. Georgia M. Carpenter, worthy matron; Mrs. J. S. Kibbey, worthy patron; Mrs. Florence A. Perkins, associate matron; Mrs. Ellen E. French, secretary; Mrs. Louise E. DeWolf, treasurer; Mrs. Lagertha W. Mann, chief conductress; Mrs. Jeannette S. Weiser, associate conductress.

The present elective officers are: Mrs. Mattie T. Sanger, worthy matron; Mr. A. F. Strunk, worthy patron; Mrs. Agnes Marshall, associate matron; Mrs. Florence A. Perkins, secreary; Mrs. Georgia A. Carpenter, treasurer; Mrs. Geneva I. Brown, conductress; Mrs. May Jenness, associate conductress.

A school of instruction was held in Windom, April 5, 1910, with Jeannette S. Weiser as district deputy. Delegates were present from Jackson, Lakefield, Worthington, Heron Lake and St. James.

The Onyx Lodge No. 266, of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized in Westbrook, 1905, with the following officers: Worshipful master, G. W. McFarland; senior warden, V. I. Miller; junior warden, B. C. Offins; treasurer, P. B. Herman; senior deacon, O. P. Schmidt; junior deacon, Frank Stewart; senior steward, J. A. Becker; junior steward, John O. Bondhus; secretary, J. A. Purson; tyler, J. D. Bevier.

The present elective officers are as follow: Worshipful master, John E. Villa; senior warden, L. B. Neilson; junior warden, A. O. Iverson; secretary, R. S. Peterson; senior deacon, Arndt E. Anderson; junior deacon, J. J. Christy; tyler, L. P. Pederson; treasurer, John E. Villa. The membership numbers thirty-five.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

This fraternity is represented in Cottonwood county at Windom only. Windom Lodge No. 108 was organized on January 15, 1886, by A. L. Bolton, with charter members as follow: Samuel M. Espey, Charles H. Reipke, Orrin P. Moore, Daniel C. Davis, Frank M. Tripp, J. H. Tilford, Paul Seeger, DeWitt A. Day. The total number in this lodge in June, 1916, was two hundred and thirty-six.

The first elective officers were as follow: S. M. Espey, noble grand; J. H. Tilford, vice-grand; A. F. Strunk, secretary.

The present elective officers are: O. G. Peterson, noble grand; O. J. Einstad, vice-grand; M. C. Langley, recording secretary; Jacob Heijn, financial secretary; H. E. Hanson, treasurer; C. A. Liem, C. W. Gillam, O. Hammerstad, trustees. This lodge owns a hall erected in 1915, at a cost of twenty thousand dollars.

Des Moines Valley Encampment No. 18, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Windom, was organized on March 30, 1904, by Brigadier-General August Hohenstein, of St. Paul. The charter members were as follow: H. E. Hanson, W. A. Peterson, C. W. Gillam, A. B. Daywitt, W. B. Cook, G. A. Peterson, O. E. Selnes, P. G. Neufeld, A. W. Annes, H. G. Hawkins, J. F. French, E. F. Hewitt, A. J. Rogers, Nels Simonson, F. T. Anton, A. Bassette, J. T. Johnson, Thomas Hawkins, H. C. Beise, H. L. White, Edgar Scott, S. A. Brown, S. L. Rogers, A. J. DeWolf, D. Rasmussen, W. S. French, J. F. Dolan, C. H. Reipke, H. J. Unruh, Carl Reipke, W. M. Teed, E. J. Severson, E. O. Morton, J. Hinkley, F. J. Carpenter, L. C. Churchill, C. C. Minor, A. F. Strunk and E. E. Rank.

The encampment in 1916 had a membership of sixty-three.

The first elective officers were as follow: C. W. Gillam, chief priest; H. E. Hanson, high priest; A. W. Annes, senior warden; W. A. Peterson, scribe; G. A. Peterson, treasurer; O. E. Selnes, junior warden.

The present elective officers are as follow: L. Sogge, chief priest; W. L. Silliman, senior warden; P. G. Neufeld, high priest; Howard Yerkes, scribe; H. E. Hanson, treasurer; E. O. Morton, junior warden.

Canton No. 23, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Windom, was instituted on April 18, 1912, by Brigadier-General August Hohenstein, assisted by Major Henry Reimer. The charter members were as follow: A. W. Annes, P. G. Neufeld, C. W. Gilliam, W. L. Silliman, Philip J. Parks, Ole M. Peterson, H. C. Hamilton, L. L. Sogge, Carl Reipke, E. H. Klock,

J. O. Thompson, S. A. Brown, H. E. Hanson, Gustav Mueller, F. E. Silliman, O. E. Selnes, F. J. Carpenter, Ed Westgard, J. G. Hinkley, W. J. Clark, Howard Yerkes, Thomas Hawkins, Edward Olson, Eben O. Morton, Andrew Olson, Albert H. Hanson, Walter P. Cowan, K. S. Hocker, J. F. French, J. F. Johns, Charles O. Hopstrom.

The first elective officers were as follow: C. W. Gilliam, commandant; H. C. Hamilton, lieutenant; S. A. Brown, ensign; Gustav Mueller, clerk; H. E. Hanson, accountant.

Present officers (1916): H. C. Hamilton, commandant; Gustav Mueller, lieutenant; Howard Yerkes, ensign; P. G. Neufeld, clerk; H. E. Hanson, accountant. There are now about thirty members in this canton.

REBEKAHS.

Fidelity Lodge No. 140, Rebekahs, was organized on March 13, 1896, by Helen K. Fowler, with charter members as follow: Kittie M. Jeffries, Elizabeth Nason, Almina Dolan, Phylinda Hudson, Bertha J. Banks, Jennie Teed, Nora Jones, Sarah Swain, Martha Sherwood, Ida Rogers, Carrie C. Williams, Lucy A. Williams, Mary Erwin, J. J. Kendall, F. A. Blanchard, A. B. Daywitt, W. C. Banks, C. W. Glick, E. O. Morton, Frank Peabody, P. G. Fullerton, Arthur Gibson, John E. Morrison, William M. Teed, D. I. Hudson, James F. Dolen, John J. Rupp.

The present total membership is one hundred and sixty-eight. The first set of elective officers were as follow: Bertha Banks, noble grand; Kittie Jeffers, vice-grand; Almina L. Dolan, secretary; Lucy A. Williams, financier; Nora Jones, treasurer.

The officers serving in 1916 were: Margaret Neufeld, noble grand; Nora Savage, vice-grand; Emma B. Hohenstein, recording secretary; Mattie Scott, financial secretary; Anna Mueller, treasurer.

The ceremonies connected with the laying of the corner-stone of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows building, May 25, 1915, were inspiring and impressive and conducted according to the customs and practices of the order. Parts of the by-laws and records of the lodge, together with a gold coin, were placed in the corner stone. Grand Master Palmer conducted the ceremony, which ended with a prayer by Chaplain Gellis.

The dedication of the building was held on December 14, 1915. The ceremony in itself, with its solemn and sacred meaning, was well rendered and the officers of the local order are to be congratulated upon the manner

in which it was carried out. The ceremony connected with the building of the altar, with the principles of the order founded on purity and finished with faith, hope and crowned with the greatest of virtues, charity, was very impressive. During the work a male quartette sang very appropriate verses to further illustrate the work. After the forming of the altar, members of the Rebekahs formed in a circle around it and sang the meaningful and rejoicing song of Meriam, which she sang on the banks of the Red Sea at the triumph of Jehovah over Pharaoh and his horsemen. Addresses were made by Grand Master F. M. Payne, of Pipestone, and other state officials.

ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN.

Windom Lodge No. 83, Ancient Order of United Workmen, was organized at Windom, June 23, 1883, by William Cheney and C. H. Roberts, officers of the grand lodge of Minnesota. The charter members were as follow: George M. Laing, past master workman; Samuel M. Espey, master workman; Benjamin W. May, foreman; Milo DeWolf, overseer; E. C. Huntington, secretary; John G. Redding, financier; Herman A. Cone, recorder; C. A. Van Duzee, guard; William W. Barlow, inside watch; B. L. Sherwood, outside watch.

The present total membership is one hundred and fifty-one. The lodge meets at Clark's Hall every first and third Saturday of each month. There are lodges of this order in this county at Mountain Lake and at Westbrook.

The present elective officers are as follow: Nels Sheets, past master workman, Henry P. Goetz; master workman, Arthur L. Cook; foreman, W. A. Cook, overseer; O. G. Peterson, recorder; Homer Rogers, financier; H. E. Hanson, receiver; Thomas Solem, guide; Fred Moser, inside watch; A. E. Kilgore, outside watch; Daniel C. Davis, J. Severson, George Grant, trustees.

Mountain Lake Lodge No. 129, of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, was organized October 23, 1890. Among the charter members were the following: William Dirks, Henry P. Goertz, Arthur L. Cook, Henry M. Goss, Henry Hammer, Frank Balzer, J. L. Hanson, M. Wigton, Peter H. Dickman, Herman Teichrow. Of these, William Dirks is the only living charter member. The first officers include the following: Past master workman, Henry P. Goertz; master workman, Arthur L. Cook; foreman Henry M. Goss; overseer, Henry Hammer; recorder, Solomon Balzer; financier, Herman Teichrow; receiver, Frank Balzer; guide, J. L. Hanson; inside watch, M. Wigton; outside watch, Peter H. Dickman. The present officers

are as follow: Master workman, G. Ulrick; foreman, Aug Schimmoeski; overseer, John Kieli; recorder, J. J. Adrian; financier, A. P. Ratzlaff; receiver, Frank Schimmoski; guide, Louie Glazer; inside watch, P. P. Teichrow; outside watch, Aug Buche. The present membership is eighteen.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No. 267, was organized at Westbrook, April 23, 1904, by Deputy Grand Master Gillespie. The charter members were the following: W. F. Wenholz, H. R. Pritz, T. T. Emertson, S. Rupp, J. P. Johnson, W. Spaulding and L. Anderson. The first elective officers were inclusive of the following: W. F. Wenholz, past master workman; H. R. Pritz, master workman; T. T. Emertson, foreman; S. Rupp, overseer; J. P. Johnson, recorder; W. Spaulding, financier; Ole Emertson, guide; Henry Steinhoff, inside watch.

The present elective officers are as follow: Master workman, J. Lindly; foreman, Edward Myers; overseer, O. J. Seely; recorder, C. W. Seely; financier, J. Bauer. The present membership is thirty-two.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

Cottonwood Camp No. 2,013, Modern Woodmen of America, at Windom, was organized in 1893. It now has a total membership of three hundred. They occupy a leased hall. The charter members of this lodge were as follow: Richard Beeching, H. E. Hanson, L. R. Rolph, J. J. Bell, O. A. Heineman, J. W. Rice, C. E. Bosse, W. R. Jeffers, C. G. Schroeder, A. L. Bradbury, A. K. Moehn, J. A. Crane, O. G. Peterson, T. E. Sime, C. Glick, J. M. Railsback, H. Teichrow.

First elective officers were: H. E. Hanson, venerable consul; E. J. Severson, worthy advisor; T. E. Sime, banker; H. Teichrow, clerk; C. E. Bosse, escort; Frank Siliman, watchman; A. K. Moehn, sentry; W. R. Jeffers, manager; J. W. Rice, manager; C. J. Schroeder, manager. Present elective officers: Andrew Elness, E. H. Klock, F. A. Moser, managers; C. F. Loveland, venerable consul; W. F. Walker, worthy advisor; E. J. Severson, banker; E. A. Sime, clerk; L. G. Christianson, escort; J. A. Morris, watchman; L. W. Crane, sentry; Drs. J. H. Dudley and L. Sogge, physicians.

Camp No. 9396, of the Modern Woodmen of America, was among the first lodges started in Westbrook. The order has always been quite active and among its members are some of the most prominent business men of the town and community. The present officers include the following: Venerable consul, E. A. Paetznick; worthy advisor, Albert Bean; banker, John E.

Villa; clerk, John L. Sammons; sentry, Earl Peterson; watchman, Adolph Peterson; manager, C. J. Seely; escort, Arndt E. Anderson.

Jeffers Camp No. 8302, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on the 25th of June, 1902, with the following charter members: Lewis Ahlness, C. P. Baker, A. H. Cook, H. C. Busse, Jed Crawford, G. S. Gilmore, Adolph Graff, W. J. Green, Lewis P. Graff, W. W. Harris, Thomas Kelley, Paul Man, Adna C. Mullinex, David E. Noble, Thomas M. Pickett, M. Polgene, H. P. Simmons, George Scheppy, W. H. Thrssem. Social members, W. Warner and A. Heinomsty.

The present elective officers are as follows: Venerable consul, W. A. Sargent; banker, John M. Johnson; advisor, John Knott; escort, William Witt; clerk, A. A. Schinnoski; outside watch, Henry Shaw; inside watch, James Downs. The present membership is thirty-three.

Cooks Camp No. 2014, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized at Mountain Lake on June 15, 1893, with the following charter members: John J. Bremen, Arthur L. Cook, Henry J. Dickman, D. D. Enns, Frank D. Enns, James L. Greer, Nelson A. Jaspersen, Magnus J. Kilde, Herman Kremin, Charlie O. Lovejoy, Edward Linschied, Add. J. Myers, George H. Regier, James M. Smith, Peter Siemund, Gustav F. Thun, A. L. Thompson, Arthur D. Warner, Gust Minke and Peter Wieme.

The present elective officers are inclusive of the following: Consul, George P. Goosen; banker, W. C. Warner; clerk, Fred Steinhauser. The present membership is thirty-five. This order is one among the few lodges of the county that own their own building. When the old depot was offered for sale it was bought by the lodge at a cost of about seven thousand dollars and completely remodeled. It well serves the purpose of a town hall, as it is supplied with a stage and curtains, a small balcony and electric lights.

Storden Camp No. 6318, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized in Storden on April 7, 1898, with the following charter members: H. A. Andersen, A. G. Andersen, W. W. Bean, S. S. Hedman, D. Hedman, P. J. Halversen, Anton Madsen, H. J. Olsen, Henry Petersen, Knute Sivertsen and F. M. Fripp.

The present elective officers include the following: Consul, Henry Andersen; advisor, Peter Hansen; banker, C. E. Petersen; clerk, N. J. Klarup; escort, P. Jensen; watchman, O. Jensen; sentry, Soren Sorensen; managers, W. Larsen, Soren Jensen and H. Ruhlberg. The present membership of the order is thirty-five.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA.

White Oak Camp No. 482, Royal Neighbors of America, at Windom, was organized on December 18, 1896, by Mrs. Mary Abbott, of Austin, Minnesota. The charter members were as follow: H. Teichroew, A. Mackay, Mrs. Jessie Mackay, Mrs. J. E. Johnson, Mrs. J. A. Hanson, J. A. Hanson, Mrs. E. H. Klock, Mrs. E. J. Meilicke, Mrs. M. R. Billings, Mrs. M. Sherwood, Mrs. Mary H. Fry, A. M. Baldwin, Frank Dickman, Mrs. Lagertha W. Mann, Mrs. J. Brubacher, Mrs. E. Jane Schroeder, Mrs. Malissa Rolph, Mrs. Julia Peterson, Dr. F. R. Weiser, Carl Schroeder.

The first elective officers were: Minnie Klock, oracle; E. Jane Schroeder, vice oracle; Etta Brubacher, past oracle; Mary Sherwood, recorder; Bertha Billings, receiver; Malissa Rolph, chancellor; Mrs. Meilicke, marshal; Mrs. Julia Peterson, inside sentinel; Mary Fry, outside sentinel; Mrs. Lagertha W. Mann, Louise Johnson, Alex Mackay, managers. Present elective officers: Isabelle S. Reipke, oracle; Carrie Mitchell, vice oracle; Maude Smestad, chancellor; Lagertha W. Mann, recorder; Hannah Spencer, receiver; Bessie Severson, marshal; Ora B. Reese, past oracle; Anna Freeby, inside sentinel; Annie Ligsblad, outside sentinel; E. A. Sime, Caroline Grotte, managers.

Dora Camp, No. 2101, Royal Neighbors of America, located at Bingham Lake, was organized on April 6, 1900, by Mrs. Dora Abbey, of Pipestone, Minnesota. The charter members were as follow: John Younbeck, Emma Knospe, Martha Wernicke, Mrs. W. Williams, Minnie Stephenson, Elizabeth Jackson, May E. Wilson, Mrs. P. Stephenson, Mrs. L. Sheldon, Mrs. Emma Rittenhouse, Mrs. Lena Hart, Mrs. N. Groen, N. Groen, W. S. Jackson, A. Wernicke, John J. Geortzen, Henry Hyde, Betty Brubacher, Emma Bailey and Charles Cogley. The present total membership is forty. The camp meets at the Holt & Wicklunds hall.

The first elective officers of this camp were: Mrs. Mary E. Wilson, oracle; Mrs. W. Williams, vice-oracle; Miss Emma Knospe, recorder; Mrs. Minnie Stephenson, receiver; Miss Betty Brubacher, chancellor. The 1916 officers are as follow: Mrs. W. Williams, oracle; Jesse McGladrey, vice-oracle; Mrs. Minnie Stephenson, recorder; Emma Rittenhouse, receiver; Carrie Deemer, chancellor.

Fern Camp No. 3440, Royal Neighbors, was organized in Westbrook in 1907 by Mary Watt, the district deputy, with the following charter members: Walter Larson, Mrs. Walter Larson, O. C. Anderson, Mrs. O. C.

Anderson, Adulph Peterson, Hild Peterson, John Villa, Inga Villa, Meriman Peterson, Bert Milligan, Esther Milligan, Phil Johanson, Mrs. Phil Johanson, Kate Busswitz, Alma Busswitz, Jessie Beach, Arndt Anderson, Enga Anderson, Maud Lamkin, Gertie Seely and Lena Granman.

The first elective officers are inclusive of the following: Oracle, Inga Villa; vice-oracle, Lena Granman; recorder, Anna Johanson; receiver, Sophia Anderson; chancellor, Maud Lampkin; past oracle, Emma Larson; marshals, Jessie Beach and Gertie Seely; inner sentinel, Esther Milligan; outer sentinel, Kate Busswitz; managers, Bert Milligan, Meriman Peterson, Alma Busswitz; physician, Dr. Miller. The present elective officers are: Oracle, Belle Peterson; past oracle, Hild Peterson; vice-oracle, Anna Moeller; chancellor, Levina Greenman; recorder, Esther Milligan; receiver, Inga Villa; inner sentinel, Rosa Bauer; outer sentinel, Inga Anderson; marshals, Edna Greenman, Mattie Pasmore; managers, Mattie Pasmore, Anna Peterson and Bert Milligan. The lodge at the present time numbers fifty. The meetings are held in the Villa hall.

MODERN BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA.

The Jeffers order of the Modern Brotherhood of America had its birth on July 6, 1906. The following were charter members: F. R. Gramman, Lula Gramman, D. E. Ridenour, Fannie Ridenour, E. J. Viall, Ella Viall, Lawrence Shaw, Jacob Shaw, Orrin Warner, Amel Sharper, Howard Ridenour, Hester Lundgreen, Lizzie Swartz, Burt Hosmer, William Bigbee, Nellie Jackson, Dena Querna, Anton Dehrnes, John Jackson, Bert A. Crist, Bert Viall, C. A. Herring and A. J. Bushey. The first officers were inclusive of the following: President, E. J. Viall; vice-president, Hester Lundgreen; treasurer, John Jackson; secretary, Bert A. Crist; chaplain, Ella Viall; physician, Dr. H. E. Harmon; conductor, Burt Viall; watchman, Amel Sharper; sentry, Lawrence Shaw; trustees, C. A. Herring, A. J. Bushey and William Bigbee. At one time the membership reached the high mark of one hundred and twenty-three, but at the present time it is only forty eight. The present officers include the following: President, W. S. Swain; vice-president, William L. Long; secretary, Burt A. Crist; conductor, Sarah Swain; chaplain, Minnie Potter; treasurer, W. S. Swain; sentry, Roy Hosmer; watchman, Frank Hart; trustees, S. H. Crist, C. S. Soule, C. A. Herring.

Westbrook Lodge No. 341, Modern Brotherhood of America, is one of the prosperous and active orders of the village, as is indicated by the

membership, which at the present time numbers sixty. The present elective officers include the following: President, Charles Passmore; vice-president, Mrs. G. A. Schippel; treasurer, J. J. Christy; secretary, T. J. Arneson; conductor, Mrs. J. J. Christy; watchman, R. Peterson; sentry, Mrs. W. E. Mead.

SONS OF NORWAY.

Nea Lodge No. 60, Sons of Norway, began its existence on April 20, 1906, with fifty charter members, among whom were the following: John Eiden, P. Pederson, Ole H. Solem, Oden S. Skillingstad, Thorsten Kringhang, Sam Salien, A. A. Quevli, John Paulson, Selmar Solem, L. Sogge, Ole A. Elness, Louis Smogy, Ed. J. Severson, Calmer Elness, G. B. Olson, J. K. Moen, H. E. Hanson, Bede Anderson, J. M. Slind, Anton Nelson, Andrew Elness, Jens Anderson, J. J. Jasaas, E. A. Sime, J. A. Johnson, P. H. Grotte, J. B. Severson, Martin Pederson, O. S. Thompson, Olaf Romning, Thomas Solem, Hans Smestad, S. J. Fering, S. B. Grotte, P. A. Peterson, Ole Hammerstad, O. Jasaas, J. T. Kulseth, Abbet Jacobson, C. Jasaas, S. O. Haalstad, Bendick Fredrickson, T. O. Haalstad, Ple Finstad, John Hammer, Ole Magnusen, Ole Elvrum, Halver Solem. The first officers were: Judge, Halver Solem; president, H. E. Hanson; vice-president, John Paulson; physicians, Dr. L. Sogge and Dr. J. K. Moens; secretary, O. O. Solem; financial secretary, E. A. Sime; cashier, Ole Elvrum; regent, P. Peterson; marshal, Olaf Romning; inside watch, Thorsten Kringhang; outside watch, Anton Nelson; trustees, Andrew Elness, J. J. Jasaas, Jens Anderson.

The present officers are as follow: Judge, Julius Severson; president, John Paulson; vice-president, P. Solem; secretary, Sam Salien; cashier, Torsten Kringhang; financial secretary, Sivert Fering; assistant secretary, Ole Elvrum; regent, Anton Nelson; marshal, John Hetarp; inside watch, John Arntson; outside watch, E. Severson; physicians, Dr. L. Sogge and A. J. Moen; trustees, Jens Anderson, Sivert Grotte, Sivert Haarstad. The membership at one time reached the high mark of ninety-one, but the present membership is about sixty. The society meets regularly on the first and third Mondays in each month in the Sons of Norway hall.

DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY.

The Meduatsolen Lodge No. 24, Daughters of Norway, was organized in Windom, May 3, 1907, with the following charter members: Elsie

Anderson, Serena Kinghug, Carolina Grotte, Sophia Thompson, Jorgina Nelson, Johanna Smestad, Kerste Moen, Hannah Jacobson, Hannah Elness, Karen Borseth, Gina Hanson, Kristina Thompson, K. Elvrum, Pedrika Solem, Betsy Elness, Anna Paulson, Paulina Paulson, Bergitha Magnuson, Leni Miller, Moni Solem, Anna Anderson, Minnie Olson, Juditha Ronning, Signe Swenson, Bryneld Paulson, Rena Paulson, Emma Paulson, Ida Patterson, Hannah Saxhong, Dr. L. Sogge, A. Quevli, Martha Skillingstad, Gina Larson, Bessie Severson, Sarah Growe, Thea Westgard, Clara Chester. The first elective officers included the following: President, Mrs. Elisa Anderson; vice-president, Seine Kringhang; secretary, Sophie Thompson; financial secretary, Jorgine Nelson; cashier, Mrs. Johanna Smestad; singer, Kersti Moen; marshal, Marie Solem; inside watch, Hannah Elness; outside watch, Mrs. Karen Borseth; assistant secretary, Gina Hanson; assistant marshal, Christine Thompson; trustees, K. Elvrum, Pedrika Solem, Betsy Elness.

The present officers are as follow: President, Karoline Grotte; vice-president, Bryneld Paulson; judge, Soinnare Smogy; singer, Bertha Benson; cashier, Carrie Elness; financial secretary, Serene Kinghug; secretary, Anna Bell; assistant secretary, Mrs. Peter Solem; marshal, Betsy Severson; captain, Sarah Growe; inside watch, Sophie Thompson; trustees, Johanna Smestad, Lizzie Anderson. The present membership is about eighty-six, although at one time the order numbered one hundred and one. The decrease has been caused by many families moving away.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

An important incident in the history of the Catholic church occurred on March 3, 1912, on which date Windom Council No. 1608, Knights of Columbus, was instituted, with a charter membership of fifty-six. The degree work was in charge of the grand officers. The officers elected at the time include the following: Grand knight, M. L. Fisch; deputy grand knight, Michael McGlen; recorder, James J. Devlin; financial secretary, Charles Koob; treasurer, Henry Keffeler; chancellor, John Rampa; advocate, Frank Pribyl; warden, Lawrence Shaw; inside watch, Louie Fancher; outside watch, Jeremiah Harrington; chaplain, Rev. Anthony Hennekes; trustees, Charles Gallagher, Charles Hartman and Nicholas Keffeler, Sr. The purpose of the society is to develop a practical Catholicism among its members, to promote Catholic education and charity and, through its insurance depart-

ment, to furnish at least temporary financial aid to families of deceased members.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

The organization of Patrons of Husbandry, commonly styled "Granges," had a great run from 1870 on for many years and in Cottonwood county numerous lodges of this farmers' society were formed and much interest taken in them. The first account we have here is of the Mountain Lake Grange No. 100, organized in 1874. Its first officers were as follow: Robert Brown, master; Louis Dunn, overseer; S. H. Soule, lecturer; S. E. Ford, chaplain; D. E. Yale, secretary; A. L. Yale, treasurer; M. T. Fall, steward; W. A. Joy, assistant steward; Mattie E. Yale, lady assistant steward; Miss M. Yale, Ceres; Mrs. Mason, Flora; Mrs. Fall, Pomona; A. Wigton, gatekeeper. Nearly every township had these granges and both men and women took an active part in the deliberations of the order.

CHAPTER IX.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

Among the honorable and useful professions is the medical doctor. Ever since Galen, the founder of medical science lived, there have been doctors and surgeons in all parts of the civilized globe, while every known tribe of civilized people on the face of the earth have, as far back as tradition and history trace, always had their own peculiar medicine men or doctors. In our full strength and complete health we sometimes spurn the profession, but when the fevered brow and coated tongue of a patient are found, he is anxious to see and consult the "family doctor," that he may again be strong and well.

The science of both medicine and surgery has made very rapid strides in the last half century; even in the last quarter of a century, many new methods of treatment have come into practice. Especially in surgery the advancement has been very striking, and operations once believed impossible, are now easily performed.

The advent of the pioneer doctor in Cottonwood county is a story of all the hardships and self-denial of the early settlers, together with the hardships, fatigue and exposure at all hours of day and night, resulting from riding over trackless prairies and fording unbridged streams. As a rule, those doctors were men of ability and had a high sense of honor and many a pioneer placed his life or some dear one of his family in the doctor's hands, having faith that the best that could be done would be accomplished.

FIRST PHYSICIAN.

It is believed that the first physician to practice in Cottonwood county was Dr. Allen Smith, who located here on October 10, 1871. After a few years of successful practice here, he returned to Ohio, from which state he had emigrated, and there died.

Dr. John H. Tilford was at one time one of the leading and most successful physicians and surgeons in Windom. He was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, November 28, 1841. At eighteen he went to the Northwestern Christian College, in Indianapolis, and attended there for some

years. He then engaged in the study of medicine in Indianapolis with Doctors Jamison and Funkhouser, with whom he continued for three years. In 1862 he was commissioned as assistant surgeon of the Seventy-ninth Indiana Infantry. He served in that capacity for three years and was mustered out in 1865. In 1865-66 he attended a course of lectures at Bellevue Medical College, in New York City, and in 1878 attended Butler Medical College. He practiced in Indianapolis for one year and then moved to another part of Indiana, where he remained for nine years. In 1879 he came to Windom, where he was eminently successful. He died September 18, 1899.

PAST AND PRESENT PHYSICIANS.

The subjoined have registered in Minnesota and Cottonwood county as medical doctors, under some one of the numerous state laws concerning such matters:

J. H. Tilford, graduate of the Indianapolis Medical College, 1873, registered in Cottonwood county in 1883. He died in Windom in 1899.

Joseph B. Noble, Rush Medical College, Chicago, 1886; came to this county the same year. After practicing here two or three years he removed to the Iron Range, Minnesota, and there resumed his practice.

LeRoy Brown, University of Michigan, 1885, came here a year later, subsequently moved to St. Paul, Minnesota.

Noah Diomontenberg, St. Paul Medical College, 1886; located in Cottonwood county the same year.

Charles Wilber Ray, Bennett Eclectic Medical College, Illinois, located here in 1887 and later died in California.

Thomas A. Beach registered in Minnesota in 1887 and here in 1893. He was a homeopathic doctor.

J. K. Moen registered in Minnesota in 1887 and here in 1893. He was here many years, but is now practicing in Minnesota.

F. R. Weiser registered under the act of 1887 and here in Windom in 1894; he still practices and is considered a leader in his profession. He graduated at Jefferson Medical College, Pennsylvania, in 1891.

J. F. Scott, under act of 1887, and in this county registered in 1899; he is now in Yakima, Washington. He was a graduate of McGill University.

Theodore Beck, registered in Minnesota under the act of 1887 and here in 1896; later he moved to Ohio.

William T. DeCoster, under act of 1887, and here in 1897; he came to

Minnesota about 1896. He has gained reputation as a surgeon and divides his time between Windom and several nearby villages and cities.

C. P. Nelson, under act of 1887, came here in 1901, moved to Westbrook and is now practicing in Minneapolis.

William N. Theissen, under act of 1887, came here in 1901, moved to Jeffers and now practices at Le Sueur, Minnesota.

William D. Beadie, under act of 1887, came here in 1902, but is now practicing in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was a graduate of McGill University, Canada.

M. J. Johnson, under act of 1895, came to this county in 1902, now located in Minneapolis.

Victor I. Miller, under act of 1887, came here in 1906, finally removed to Mankato, where he is still practicing medicine.

William D. Rea, under act of 1887, came to this county in 1907; practiced at Mountain Lake, this county, but is now deceased.

Joseph A. Dudley, Windom, under act of 1887, came here in 1909, a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago.

P. H. Bennion, registered in Minnesota in 1902, here in 1903, is now practicing medicine in St. Paul, Minnesota.

William F. Coon, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, came to Minnesota in 1903 and to this county a year later.

Ludwig L. Sogge, registered in the state in 1905, here at Windom in 1906; still practicing here; he is a graduate of Minnesota University, medical department.

H. W. Coulter, under act of 1905, came to this county in 1910 and moved to Mountain Lake, this county.

W. Edwin Patterson, under act of 1905, here in 1911; moved to Lake Shetek, Minnesota.

Charles Daniel Richmond, of North Dakota, under act of 1905; that year came to Minnesota and in 1911 to Jeffers, this county, and is still here.

John W. Kurz, of Wright county, Minnesota, registered here in 1912.

Linus Ira Aldrich, Sioux county, Iowa, under act of 1905, in Minnesota, came to Cottonwood county in 1913. He practiced at Jeffers.

William Albert Piper, under act of 1905, came from Milwaukee, 1914, and now practices at Mountain Lake, this county.

George Ulrich Panzer, under act of 1905, came here in July, 1911, and practiced at Storden and Jeffers.

Henry Albert Schmidt, under act of 1895, came here in 1915; admitted to state in 1909; practiced at Westbrook.

In 1905 the record shows that the county commissioners appointed the following physicians as county doctors: Dr. C. P. Nelson, Doctor Miller, Doctor Rea, Doctor Weiser and Doctor Harmon, at Jeffers, a number of years located there and there died. Also, Doctor Noen and Doctor Meridith of Windom. The last named was of the homeopathic school of medicine.

It is said that prior to 1887, and soon after the pioneer, Doctor Smith located, came in Doctor Sacket, who homesteaded land in Great Bend township and practiced locally, but never was known as a regular practitioner of this county, outside his own farm neighborhood.

The next to practice in the county were two doctors named Brown, who, however, were in no way related by kinship.

Dr. Charles A. Greene, a physician of large experience and very well read in the science of medicine, was born in Rhode Island, but went to Buffalo, New York, to obtain a knowledge of medicine, having taken a thorough course at the Buffalo University. From Buffalo the doctor went to his native state and practiced two years and then moved to eastern Minnesota, practiced three years, coming to Windom in 1878. He died in Windom about 1911, a highly-respected citizen.

Doctors Breck and Graham located in the Cone block in 1901, formed a partnership in 1900 and carried on a large practice for some time. Doctor Breck was from Ohio; graduated from Wooster and Cleveland Medical schools; he was of the osteopathy school. Doctor Graham was of Pennsylvania, a graduate of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, 1870; also from Hahnemann Homeopathic School, Chicago; he was a member of several medical societies.

Dr. J. F. Scott, of Montreal, Canada, graduated at McGill University, 1899; came direct to Windom and was a member of the American Medical Association.

SILAS D. ALLEN.

Silas D. Allen was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, December 11, 1826. He taught school and studied medicine at Ann Arbor, Michigan. He married Lucy A. Allen, also of Bradford county. Deciding to go to California and try his fortune as a gold miner, he left home May 20, 1854, and took boat at New York, sailing by way of Panama and up the Pacific coast to San Francisco. He remained in California until November 14, 1855, and was reasonably well paid for the hardships and experiences he passed through.

In 1856 he settled in northeast Iowa, near Lansing, and farmed and

practiced medicine for a number of years, later moving to Carroll county, Missouri, where he stayed with his family until 1874, when he moved to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and settled on a farm about a mile from Windom, on the Valley road. There he farmed and practiced medicine for a number of years, living in a log house until 1880, when he erected a good frame house, which still stands.

He loved farming and especially stock raising. Calls for his professional services were numerous, and he never failed to respond day or night, generally going horseback, which was the most practical and quickest way in those days. He was a skillful physician and his services as counsel were much sought for by other doctors in serious cases, they having full confidence in his skill and advice. The Doctor was a very conscientious man, of strong convictions, broad-minded and would not tolerate hypocrisy or graft of any nature. He was a great reader, having a splendid library of the best works, and in his later years devoted much of his time to his favorite authors. In 1901 he sold his farm and retired from active life, moving to Windom. The following year his wife died and he lived alone to a large extent until January, 1907, when he was stricken with an illness which lasted until his death, March 4, 1907.

The Doctor, by his generous and sympathetic disposition, made a great number of friends, and is remembered by many as one who never seemed to think of his professional services except as a means of helping suffering humanity. His account books showed thousands of dollars for services, which he never endeavored to collect.

CHAPTER X.

NEWSPAPERS OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY.

THE WINDOM REPORTER.

The *Windom Reporter* at the city of Windom was established in September, 1873, by E. C. Huntington, who continued its publication until March, 1908, when he sold to Warren Brothers Company. In December, 1902, the old *Windom Free-Press* was consolidated with the *Reporter*. The *Reporter* is a Republican paper; eight-page, six-column in form and size, and has a yearly subscription rate of one dollar and fifty cents. In the summer of 1916 the owners constructed a new brick building for a permanent office home. The paper is all home-print and is run from a press propelled by electric motors. It circulates mostly in Cottonwood and Jackson counties. Its job department is complete in all appointments. The office has among its appliances, a cylinder press, three jobbers, paper cutter, stapler, type-setting machine, etc. The local columns are filled with local reading matter each issue and its editorials are strong and comprehensive.

THE COTTONWOOD COUNTY CITIZEN.

The *Cottonwood County Citizen*, published at Windom, was established in 1882 by C. F. Warren, as a farmer's paper, and subsequently sold to a co-operative company, and at different times was owned by A. M. Morrison, of Mankato, W. C. Benbow, C. F. Warren & Sons, and later by Churchill & Dunicliff, which firm was succeeded by L. C. Churchill. The *Citizen* is a Republican organ of no uncertain sound. It circulates in Cottonwood and Jackson counties mostly. Its subscription rate per year is one dollar and fifty cents; in form and size it is a six-column, eight-page paper, all home print. The owner of the paper owns a building, but owing to a long-term lease the paper is published in a leased building. The office equipment includes linotype, cylinder press, all sizes of jobbers, perforators, staplers, paper cutting machine, punches, and a large assortment of type. These various machines are all propelled by electric motors. As a news-

paper and up-to-date job office, there are few, if any excelling it in towns of much larger size than Windom. The *County Citizen* is welcome at the firesides of many homes in the surrounding country, is clean and full of readable news of the community.

THE WESTBROOK SENTINEL.

The *Westbrook Sentinel* was established on May 8, 1901, by O. M. Quigley and was subsequently owned and conducted by Hoagland Brothers; R. S. Peterson is the present owner. It is published weekly and has a subscription rate of one dollar and fifty cents per year. In form and size it is eight pages of seven columns each. It circulates in Cottonwood and surrounding country. Politically, it is an independent journal, seeking the best good for all the people at all times in all things. The equipment of the office in which the *Sentinel* is printed is up-to-date and includes a Prouty cylinder newspaper press—two pages of seven columns; a Standard jobber, ten by fifteen inches; a Chandler & Price, eight-by-twelve jobber; paper cutter; a good assortment and full supply of latest styles of type. A gasoline engine runs the machinery in the printing office. The paper is part home and part patent print. It works for the interests of Westbrook and Cottonwood county and is a believer in home enterprise and home trade.

THE JEFFERS REVIEW.

The *Review*, at the village of Jeffers, was established by Harry Maxfield in March, 1900. It was sold in 1901 to A. E. Karst and he in 1907 sold to M. B. Fish, who in October, 1913, sold to E. F. Schmotzer. It is now run from a power press propelled by a gasoline engine, and is published each week, at a subscription rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per year. It circulates in the county of Cottonwood and the village of Jeffers, being a favorite in the homes of the surrounding farmers. It is a six-column, quarto sheet and in politics is independent. The building in which the office is now situated is the property of the Modern Brotherhood of America lodge. Four pages are home print and four are "patent" print of choice selection. The equipment of the office includes a Simplex Diamond cylinder press, paper cutter, gas engine and a good assortment of both news and job type.

MOUNTAIN LAKE NEWSPAPERS.

At present there are two newspapers published at the village of Mountain Lake—*The View*, in English and the *Unser Besucher*, printed in the German language. They are now both owned and edited by W. J. Toews. The *Mountain Lake View* was established in 1894 by D. C. Benjamin, and was owned and conducted in turn as follows: E. E. Lane, I. I. Borgen, W. J. Toews. It is a six-column, eight-page publication; is printed on a Drum cylinder press, and the office is well equipped with a standard linotype machine, a folder and much type material. The plant is just at this time (August, 1916) changing from gasoline to electric motor power. It is a Republican organ. From twelve to fifteen columns of home print are run each issue. The rate per year is one dollar and twenty-five cents. Two men are employed in the publication of the paper. Excellent job work is executed on a twelve-by-eighteen Chandler & Price jobber.

The *Unser Besucher* at Mountain Lake, was founded in 1901 by I. I. Borgen, who conducted it until he sold to its present owner, W. J. Toews. It is a six-column, four-page paper, printed in the German language. It has the same rate as *The View* and is run from the same presses. In politics it is Republican.

For a number of years there was a monthly paper issued here, known as the "*Evangelisations-Bote*," also two weekly papers.

CHAPTER XI.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS OF THE COUNTY.

While the early settlers were largely made up of returned Civil War soldiers and immigrants from lands beyond the seas, yet they did not forget their religious vows and early training in their native state or country, for it is found that in every community in the county, as soon as there were a sufficient number of any one religious faith to organize a church, it was done, though sometimes there were but a few charter members in such societies. Private houses were used for many of the first religious services. Later, school houses were used for meetings and usually all denominations of the Protestant faith would hold union meetings. Eventually, each of the regular denominations found ways to raise money and build neat churches, in villages and rural districts, and since then have maintained regular services. In fact, the minister was about as early as any of the settlers, and in some instances he, too, was a "homesteader." While he tilled his land, he also married people, christened the infants and buried the dead of the pioneer community.

It was the sentiment and every-day exemplary life of the church-going people of Cottonwood county that founded her institutions on a religious basis, and this, coupled with the school system of the county, has made it a community where law and order and a high degree of intelligence are found today—nearly half a century after the first white settlers came here to make homes for themselves.

Now nearly all of the evangelical Protestant and Catholic churches common in this country, are found in Cottonwood county. There are but few, if any, villages in Minnesota where there are more churches for the number of inhabitants than there are in Windom, the seat of justice.

Possibly there may be a few small churches within the county which have not furnished the historian with proper data, but nearly all of the churches in the county are represented in this chapter, by a brief but reliable account of their organization, present strength, etc.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

The first religious service in the village of Windom was conducted by the Rev. J. E. Fitch in the summer of 1871, in the unfinished hardware store which stood on the present site of the First National Bank. Rev. Peter Baker, local preacher, living at Jackson, was the first on this circuit and had a preaching appointment at Big Bend before the village of Windom was started. In September, 1871, a union Sunday school was organized and in December the first quarterly meeting of the church was held. A class meeting had been organized and had met at the home of Mr. Laird. Reverend Baker was in charge of the congregation until September, 1872, when J. W. Lewis was sent here. He came to the village on a sled, as the railroad was snowbound, and preached his first sermon at Swan Lake in a private house. On December 8 he preached at Big Bend.

The only place of worship at this time was a small private school house pre-empted by the Presbyterian and Baptist congregations. In order to avoid all conflicts, it was decided not to use the school house, so the minister rented a hall over Hutton's store. A stove and some fuel were secured, also lumber for seats, and the first quarterly meeting was held on December 15, 1872.

In 1873, twenty-seven members and five probationers composed the congregation at Windom; twenty members and eleven probationers at Big Bend and ten members at Swan Lake, a total of sixty-five members and sixteen probationers in the county.

During the summer and fall of 1873, lots were secured and a few subscriptions and donations received through Bishops Ames and Merrill from parties in Baltimore, amounting to two hundred and fifty dollars. Lumber was bought and stacked on the lots and all work suspended for the winter. The frame work was put up in 1874 and in the fall of 1875 the house was enclosed and plastered by the Rev. Lewis.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST CHURCH.

The oldest class-book of the Methodist people in Cottonwood county contains the following names, and dates from July, 1871: D. W. Working, class-leader, A. J. Gessell, M. R. Gessell, Martha Gessell, R. N. Sackett, J. A. Sackett, L. I. Sackett, S. Chapman, Cyrus Finch, Martha Finch, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Thompson, E. L. Working, William Peterson, William Teed.

Later that same year, the following names were added: G. A. Purdy, B. C. Purdy, Mary Purdy, Lavern Purdy Clark, G. A. Chapman, Allen Gardner, Lovina Estgste, D. E. Teed, D. B. Jones and wife. Other very early members were: Mr. and Mrs. James Greenfield, Mr. and Mrs. A. Laird, Mr. and Mrs. A. Holmes, Mrs. Belle Smith (now Mrs. George Le Tourneaux), Eben Morton, Mrs. Lorinda Greenfield and Mrs. Abigail C. Gillam.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Windom was organized in the autumn of 1871, by Rev. Peter Baker. The first quarterly conference was held in December, 1871. The total membership in May, 1916, was about five hundred. The first church building, a frame structure, costing about two thousand and fifty dollars, was dedicated on January 30, 1876. The present edifice and parsonage were erected in 1901, of brick veneer, and cost about seventeen thousand dollars, but it would cost much more to build the same today. It was dedicated on April 27, 1902, Bishop John W. Hamilton delivering the dedicatory sermon. A large and flourishing Sunday school is connected with the other church and society work.

The following have served as faithful pastors of the church at Windom: Revs. Peter Baker, 1871-72; J. W. Lewis, November, 1872, to March, 1874; J. E. Fitch, March, 1874, to September, 1875; J. W. Lewis, September, 1875, to September, 1876; E. O. Stoddard, September, 1876, to 1877; T. H. Kinsman, 1877-78; Nelson Sutton, 1878-79; E. J. Foster, 1879 to July, 1880; W. E. King, July, 1880, to September, 1882; Levi Gleason, September, 1882-83; William Copp, 1883-84; B. Y. Coffin, 1884-87; F. A. Arnold, 1887-88; A. J. Williams, 1888-91; G. S. Perry, 1891-92; E. Vaughn, 1892-93; J. H. Buttleman, 1893-96; W. C. Sage, 1896-98; J. A. Sutton, 1898-1900; Charles H. Stevenson, 1900, to January, 1902; supplied by President Cooper and others from January, 1902, to June, 1902; S. Arthur Cook, from June, 1902, to October, 1907; B. C. Gillis, from October, 1907, to the present time.

AT BINGHAM LAKE.

The First Methodist Episcopal church of Bingham Lake was organized in 1900 by Rev. G. H. Way, a presiding elder, and the first pastor, Rev. H. H. Wallace. The charter members were J. W. Cogley and wife, G. J. Johnson, Bertha Johnson, N. J. Langley, Susann Cogley, Jessie L. McGladray. The first church building—a brick and frame—cost at first fifteen hundred dollars, and later a frame addition cost seven hundred dollars. The pastors who have served here have been as follow: Rev. H. H. Wallace, 1900; William Young, 1901; S. A. Smith, 1903; P. G. Wager, 1904; S. S. Smith,

1905; H. H. Hawley, 1906; S. J. Wallace, 1907; B. Campbell, 1908; A. A. Rowshausen, 1909; J. R. Stephen, 1910; L. G. Davis, 1911; Rev. McKibben, 1913; W. E. Thompson, 1914-15; W. W. Smith, the present pastor. The present membership of this church is sixty-three. There had been church services held here before the organization of this church, by traveling ministers of both the Methodist and Presbyterian faith.

AT JEFFERS.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Jeffers was organized by Rev. J. J. Lutz in 1900 and now has a membership of fifty-five. The pastors in order have been as follow: Revs. J. J. Lutz, A. B. Blades, B. T. Russell, J. P. Rawson, F. O. Krause, W. H. Stone, G. W. Root, Teho S. Mondale and F. P. Hannaman, the present pastor. The corner-stone of the church edifice was laid in August, 1900, and dedicated on February 10, 1901, by Bishop Joyce. It is a frame building, costing twenty-two hundred dollars.

While this is not a large congregation, it well represents Methodism in the section in which it is located. Those of this belief, though not affiliated with the church as members, attend services here and the faith of this denomination is kept alive in and surrounding the village. Methodists are pioneers in all new countries and it was so in this county. The Sabbath school and other societies of the church are here in active operation and doing much good in the community.

AT MOUNTAIN LAKE.

The Methodist church of Mountain Lake began its existence as an organization in 1893. It was not until 1897, however, that the church building was constructed. Mr. Goss, although not a member of the church, seemed to think that there should be a Methodist church in the community and it was largely his efforts and financial aid that made possible the existence of the church. At the present time there are very few members and no regular pastor is employed. Sunday school is the only service conducted in the church and this is under the direction of John P. Rempel, the superintendent. Among the pastors who served the congregation was H. H. Wallace.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The First Presbyterian church of Windom was organized, October 15, 1871, by a committee of the Mankato presbytery, appointed for the purpose, consisting of Rev. David C. Lyon, synodical missionary of the state, and Revs. Aaron H. Kerr and Edward Savage. The eight charter members

were as follow: Isaac M. Moss, Mrs. Amanda C. Moss, Mrs. Deborah Pierce, Mrs. Jenneth Smith, Mrs. DeLoss Smith; Mrs. Margaret A. Savage, Abram Frisbie and Melinda Gray. The present membership of this church is one hundred and thirty-two.

During the early years in the history of this church all services were held in the school house. Later, the Methodist Episcopal church was used, alternating services with the Methodist people, but on Sunday, July 12, 1885, the Presbyterians dedicated their new church home, a modest frame structure, built at a cost of a little less than two thousand dollars. This building still stands on the corner of Third avenue and Eleventh street, but is altogether too small for the present congregation and Bible school. Plans are now maturing for the erection of a new, modern building on the old site. John A. Brown hauled the first stone for this church foundation and many donated material and work.

The Windom church owes a very large debt to Rev. Edward Savage for his untiring efforts during the early years of this organization. The first communion set was donated by a young lady in the East. The individual communion service now in use was given by Elder J. F. French just before his death, two years ago. The beautiful offering plates now used were donated by Mrs. John Hutton, and the sweet-toned piano, by the Orpheus Club of the church in 1915.

On dedication morning, Pastor La Grange announced that there remained but one hundred and twelve dollars to raise in order to dedicate the church free of debt and that sum was very quickly and easily raised. A large amount of labor was donated, but the details have not been recorded.

The following is a list of the various pastors of this church: Revs. Edward Savage, Samuel W. La Grange, Herbert McHenry, Arthur M. Smith, H. P. Barnes, W. H. Sloane, J. C. Gourley, Walter H. Reynolds, C. M. Junkin, Philip A. Swartz, Jr., G. A. Holzinger, W. J. Bell, L. F. Badger, H. F. Softly and Rev. Charles C. Brown, the present pastor.

The church organization at Bingham Lake having recently disbanded, leaves the Windom church the only one of this denomination in Cottonwood county.

BAPTIST CHURCHES.

The First Baptist church of Windom was organized on July 6, 1890, by Rev. J. M. Thurston, a retired minister living at Windom. The charter members of this society were as follow: Rev. Jesse M. Thurston and wife, Polly, Lucius M. Thurston, Irving J. Thurston (sons of Rev. J. M. Thurs-

ton), Sarah J. Thurston (adopted daughter of Rev. Thurston), Etta L. Dyer, Hattie N. Dyer, Mrs. (G. L.) Annie E. Macomber, Mrs. (C. F.) Henrietta Warren, Peter A. Ruhberg and wife, Metta, Mrs. Sarah Richmond, Mrs. (T. C.) Elmira Richmond, Mrs. Sarah J. Root, Mrs. Anna Stark. The present membership of this Baptist church is one hundred and fifty-four. There have been three hundred and seventy-six belonging to this church, of which number two hundred and twenty-two are not now on the church rolls.

A frame building, located on the corner of Fourth avenue and Eleventh street, was erected in 1891, costing five thousand dollars. This denomination has another strong church at Westbrook and a Danish Baptist church at Storden, this county.

The pastors who have served at Windom are as follow: Revs. J. C. Mower, July 1, 1890, to July, 1891; C. D. Belden, November 1, 1891, to November, 1892; W. S. Black, July 1, 1893, to July 1, 1894; G. W. Stone, November 1, 1894, to March, 1900; H. A. Erickson, May 13, 1900, to August 1, 1902; J. M. Pegelly, June 1, 1903, to October 15, 1905; H. A. Stoughton, November 1, 1905, to April 15, 1912; F. E. Ians, May 15, 1912, to August 31, 1914; William Phillips, March 31, 1915, to March 21, 1916. Rev. F. D. Holden is the present pastor.

Prior to the formation of this church there had been an organization, but, owing to removals at the time of the grasshopper scourge, it disbanded, some of its members later uniting with the present church. The old "First" church was organized in 1872, by its first and only pastor, M. C. Cummins, in the village school house where services were afterward held.

Much of the early prosperity of the present church was due to the efforts of the Rev. J. M. Thurston in assisting the pastors. The church grew in nine years to one hundred and fifty-three members, but soon there was a great migration of members westward, which so weakened the church that it did not again reach its former numbers for about fifteen years, or following the Smith-Gilmore evangelistic campaign in the winter of 1914-15. The author is indebted to the church clerk, H. A. Stoughton, for the above facts.

AT WESTBROOK.

Immanuel Baptist church, at Westbrook, was organized in 1909 by Revs. August Brohm, C. Henningsen, B. Jacobson and N. L. Christiansen. The charter members were inclusive of the following: P. W. Ludnigsen, Mrs. Annie Ludnigsen, Mrs. Ida Ludnigsen, William A. Ludnigsen, Mrs.

Sine Ludnigsen, Mrs. Laura Nelson, Ole Christiansen, Mrs. Ole Christiansen, Jens C. Christiansen, Mrs. Jens C. Christiansen, Carl Petersen, Mrs. Carl Petersen, Hans C. Hansen, Mrs. Hans C. Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Axel Carl- sen, N. C. Christensen, Walter Larsen, Mrs. Walter Larsen, F. G. Davis, Mrs. F. G. Davis. The present Sunday school superintendent is F. W. Ludnigsen and the enrollment is one hundred and thirty scholars. In 1902 a twenty-five hundred-dollar church was erected. The first pastor was Rev. C. A. Ehrhardt.

DANISH BAPTIST DENOMINATION.

In January, 1899, Rev. M. A. Summers, the district missionary, in company with the pastor of the Windom Baptist church, visited a few families in the Westbrook vicinity. Later on, the Rev. Byers, of the Danish Baptist church, held meetings in the various homes. The first direct work looking toward the formation of a Danish Baptist church was begun by Mis- sionary Summers in the school house west of town in August, 1900, which, after some interruption, was resumed on December 16, 1900.

On one occasion Mr. Summers went to the school house, only to find it occupied by another minister, both having made appointments for the same time and place without being aware of such circumstance. Rev. Sum- mers and his people withdrew to the railroad depot, where, through the kindness of agent Bell, the first service inside the town proper was held. For some time services were held in the Silliman hall. The desire for a church began to take root and found expression in the efforts put forth to secure that end. During the summer months Rev. R. O. Farel, the pulpit supply, gave much time to the securing of pledges for the building. Much credit is due W. Hubbell for his timely and munificent gift which made possible the early construction of the church. In December the church extended a call to Rev. C. A. Ehrhardt to become its first pastor and he accepted.

The Danish Baptists here purchased a good building from the Calvary Baptists of Westbrook, who carried on this work for about one year, when they sold the building, which was enlarged and a basement put beneath it. These changes and improvements cost the society about \$4,374. The build- ing is a good frame structure, with cement basement under the entire build- ing. It is the largest public audience room in Westbrook. The services are all in the English language, except twice a month.

The first pastor was Rev. N. H. Byers, from May, 1910, to September, 1914, since which time Rev. Amandus L. N. Sornsen has been the pastor in charge.

“MISSION BAND.”

The Mission Band church, located at Windom, the only one in the county, was organized by Charles E. Croft, July 25, 1913, but was the outgrowth of the prayers and labors of many persons in and near Windom for many years before that date. Rev. G. L. Morgan was possibly the first one to start a full gospel here; others have been interested in the movement and for several years there has been a “full gospel” convention held annually in Windom, and at last they have a place of worship of their own.

The charter members of this society, or band, were as follow: Rev. G. L. Morgan, Mrs. Lura Morgan, Rev. Charles E. Croft, Mrs. Flora E. Kettlewell, Arthur Mead, Mrs. Sarah Croft, Mrs. Anna Croft, William J. Croft, Benjamin Molten, Mrs. O. Hammerstad, Alma Skewis, Mrs. Bertha Kettlewell, Mrs. Edna Croft, Russell Moulton, Gail Morgan, Lewis Hanson, Arthur Johnson, Mrs. Ethel Freeman. The actual membership in June, 1916, was thirty.

A building was purchased of R. H. Kettlewell in 1913. It is a frame structure, which formerly was a Methodist Episcopal church and later was used as a lodge room.

The pastors serving this society have been as follow: Revs. John W. Croft, Charles E. Croft, A. W. Mead and the present pastor, Rev. G. A. Wooden, who, in giving an account of the work here, said: “This is a full gospel movement. We stand for the verbal inspiration of the whole Bible and we preach it, live it and teach it as God gives us light upon it. We are not trying to build up a denomination, but we are trying to build up the Kingdom of Christ in the hearts of men and women.”

NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Westbrook Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church is ten miles to the northeast of the village of Westbrook and was organized by Rev. J. Chr. Jacobson in 1886. It has a present total membership of five hundred and thirteen souls. There are five church organizations, all under one pastor, as follows: Westbrook, already named; Highwater church, eight miles southwest of Lamberton, organized by Rev. J. Chr. Jacobson, with a membership of two hundred and four souls; Amo church, four miles south of Storden, with two hundred and twenty souls, organized by the minister just named; Trinity church, organized by the same minister, having a present total membership of one hundred and ninety-three souls, and Bethany

church, an English Lutheran church in Westbrook town, organized by Rev. J. Lewis, who has served as pastor almost five years. The total membership of Bethany is eighty-five souls.

Each of these church organizations has a neat frame edifice of its own. The pastors who have been faithful over these five flocks are as follow: Rev. J. Chr. Jacobson, thirty years; Rev. L. Lund, three years; Rev. L. O. Pederson, three years, and Rev. J. Lewis, about five years.

By these five churches scattered over the western portion of Cottonwood county the Lutheran faith is taught and practiced among a large number of people, mostly of the Norwegian nationality. Be it said to the credit of these people, that schools and churches have ever been liberally supported by them.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Evangelical Lutheran church at Jeffers began its existence on May 18, 1902. The ones who signed up for the first organization include the following: Christian Schaper, Garrett Krupher, W. Krahn, Aug. Wolter, Fred Palzin, Henry Schoper. The first meetings were held in the various homes, in the lumber yard and, in fact, almost anywhere that a gathering could be secured. The first pastor was Rev. W. L. Keller; the second, Rev. Paul Cornils, who accepted the call of the church May 23, 1904. The third and present pastor, the Rev. E. Michaelis, has served the congregation since March 1, 1914.

On the 12th of February, 1911, a meeting was called and it was agreed to build a church building. Those who signed up and shouldered the responsibility of construction were H. Schoper, J. A. Gerke, Amel Folgel, Herman Peltz, A. Gruenwald, George Krupke, R. R. Ohls, Peter Holek and Fred Polzin. Various materials and a great amount of labor were donated by the different families and, by hard work and constant effort, the church was dedicated on the 28th of August, 1911, with a total cash expenditure of one thousand five hundred and eighty-two dollars and fifty-two cents. At the present time there are about ten families in the congregation.

The following article was taken from the *Windom Reporter* of December 18, 1881: "Dedication services will be held at the German Evangelical church in Germantown, commencing Friday, December 10, and on Sunday 21, in the forenoon, the church will be dedicated. The following clergymen will be present: Rev. H. Bunce, of Mankato, presiding elder; Rev. J. Smith, of St. Peter; Rev. B. Simon, of Redwood Falls; Rev. M. Gastetter, the resident pastor. A general invitation is given to the public to be present.

The church building has just been completed at a cost of two thousand dollars. The building is twenty-eight by forty-eight feet and is furnished in good style."

NORWEGIAN UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This denomination at Windom was organized in either 1881 or 1882 and now has a membership of sixty-five families or about five hundred members. The church edifice was built in 1896 and the parsonage in 1897. The pastors have included these: Revs. Andrew O. Hagen, O. C. Mhyre, H. H. Holte and F. C. Norman, present pastor. Among the charter and early members may be recalled these: A. Quevli, F. Reese, Tolef Stenerson, Gabriel Olson, Hans O. Solem, Robertine Pederson, Ole P. Grotte, Peder P. Grotte, Ole Komprud, Gunder Pederson, Olaf Selness, Andrew J. Sandmell, Oluf Brixelien, Iver Olson and Halvor Solem.

A Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran church was formed in Windom in 1888. Rev. K. J. Waug was pastor in 1901, when there was a membership of thirty families. It is still doing its work in an humble manner and has a small frame church building.

DOWIE ZIONISTS.

In 1901 local papers show that Windom was the seat of a branch of the Dowie Zionist society so famous near Chicago. They held services at the hall in the Cone business house.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity congregation was organized at Mountain Lake in 1898 by Rev. J. Porisch. Among the charter members were the following: John Oeltjenbruns, Herman Kremin, John Ehler, John DeWall, John Poppe, Ed. Radtke, William Nibbe, H. Markwart, J. Kunkel, F. Neuman, H. Dietz, E. Kremin, David Meier, A. Meier, John Langeman, John Steinhauser, George Feil, Gottfried Feil, W. Dierks, C. Roesner, George Heinitz, G. Heinitz, D. D. Heinitz, D. Heinitz, Carl Jase, William Mueller, D. D. Steinle, G. Steinle, Gottfried Schmiers, H. Ruddat, R. Feil, George Schmivek, E. Bag, and Gust. Ott. The pastors and their order of serving have been as follow: Rev. J. Porisch, 1898 to 1900; Rev. A. Ziehlsdorff, 1900 to 1904; Rev. J. Porisch, 1904 to 1910; Rev. W. C. Rumsch, 1910 to the present time.

The church building was erected the same year the congregation was organized, at a cost of nine hundred and sixty-five dollars. The parochial

school was started, September 6, 1914, in a school building owned by the church. The teachers were Rev. W. C. Rumsch, student Lindenmeyer, student Kohlhoff and Miss F. Winter. Between fifty and sixty scholars attend. The present membership of the church is forty.

LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

Immanuel's Lutheran congregation, of Rose Hill township, was organized in 1880 by Rev. C. H. Schuttler and six charter members. It now has a membership of forty. A church building was erected in 1880, costing two thousand dollars, and it was rebuilt in 1907 at a cost of three thousand dollars. Children of the congregation are taught in a parochial school three days in each week alternate years, the pastor being the instructor. The following have served as pastors of this congregation: Rev. William Priggie, after the founder, Rev. Schuttler, had been in charge from 1880 to 1890; in 1893 came Rev. Ferd Selme, who served to 1896; next came Rev. George Stamm, who served to 1902; then came Rev. Christian Heuer, serving till 1905; Rev. Jacob Dachsteiner, from 1905 to 1908, when Rev. O. J. Wolff, the present pastor, came.

Trinity Lutheran congregation, of Westbrook, was organized in 1901, by Rev. Christian Heuer, with fourteen members. The congregation now has a membership of thirty-five. A frame building was erected in 1901, costing one thousand dollars, and in 1910 a parsonage was provided costing twenty-five hundred dollars. A parochial school is conducted by the pastor Saturdays and Mondays about five months each year. This denomination has a hearge and a church at a point in Rose Hill township above mentioned, cared for by the pastor of the Westbrook church. The following have served as pastors of the Westbrook congregation: Revs. Christian Heuer, 1901 to 1905; Rev. Jacob Dagchsteiner, 1905-08; Rev. F. Burgley, 1908-09; Rev. O. J. Wolf, 1909-16.

MENNONITE CHURCH.

This denomination, with its various branches, is represented only among the Russians in the eastern part of the county, in and near the village of Mountain Lake.

The First Mennonite church at Mountain Lake was organized in 1878 by Henry Schultz and David Loewen. The first building was erected in 1882, at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars and the present church was erected

in 1911 at a cost of five thousand dollars. The following have served as pastors of this church: Revs. David Loewen, John Schultz, Gerhard Neufeld, Peter Voht, Gerhard Fast, Jacob Friesen, Jacob Stoesz, A. Friesen, D. D. Harder, J. Niessen, I. J. Dick. At present the ministers are, Elder Jacob Stoesz, D. D. Harder, Revs. Dick and John Niessen.

The Mennonite Bergfelder church, which dates its beginning to about 1886, is located north of Mountain Lake and not very far from town. The church was rebuilt in 1913 under the pastorship of Rev. D. P. Eitzen, who is now the present pastor. There is a branch church at Delft, of which Rev. Eitzen is the pastor. The membership of the church near Mountain Lake is one hundred and seventy-five.

The Mennonite Bruderthaler church began its existence in 1888 and was organized by Aaron Wall. Among the charter members were the following: Henry Fast, Gerhard Fast, Henry Warkerten, Dieter Warkerten, John J. Dick, Peter Nickel, John Regier, Gerhard Buhler. The leaders in the church at the present time include some of the most prominent men in the church and community. Among them are, Henry Fast, Heinrick Fast, Jacob A. Wall, H. I. Dick and Aaron Wall.

The church owns about seven and one-half acres of land two and one-half miles north of Mountain Lake, on which the church buildings are located. The first building, constructed in 1888, was twenty-six feet wide by forty-four feet long, but the church grew so rapidly that this building soon became too small, thus necessitating a new one. In 1893 a new edifice was constructed at a cost of five thousand dollars. The dimensions of this building are twenty-eight feet wide and seventy feet long. The old building was then used as a school building and a home for the pupils who attend school. During the winter twenty-five to thirty pupils attend this school under the guidance and leadership of Abraham J. Becker. The present membership is about one hundred and fifty, not as large as at one date, before so many removed from the county.

Mennonite Bethel church, at Mountain Lake, was organized in the year 1889, by H. H. Reiger and about twenty-four others. The first secretary was John Janzen; the chairman, H. H. Reiger; trustees, N. F. Toews, H. Goertz, H. H. Regier, H. Schroeder, Jacob J. Balzer and John Janzen. The present membership is two hundred and seventy-three. In 1890 a frame church was erected and enlarged in 1895. The cost of the first building was sixteen hundred dollars and, as enlarged, the total cost was six thousand dollars. The following ministers have faithfully served this

congregation: Revs. H. H. Reiger, J. J. Balzer, N. F. Toews and Peter J. Friesen.

This church, in conjunction with four others, has a parochial school—a German school of the union type. Three instructors are engaged and the pupils now number about one hundred. A two-year course is maintained. The school building, a frame structure, cost about four thousand dollars and the accompanying boarding hall cost about twenty-five hundred dollars. The pupils are given a chance to board at six dollars a month.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF THE COUNTY.

While this denomination is not strong in Cottonwood county, there are good churches at a few points, including Windom, Jeffers and Westbrook. It is doubtful if any church in southern Minnesota has ever been organized under conditions similar to the Catholic church at Westbrook. It was the agitation and assistance of the non-catholics that made the church possible. After much solicitation and persuasion, M. J. Breen took up the task of securing money to build the church and in only three instances was he refused. Of all those who subscribed, only one man refused to pay. Lots for the church building were donated by John Sammons.

In February, 1914, ground was broken for the foundation and in April the masonry was completed. On the 7th of June, 1915, the church was dedicated, at a total cost of two thousand three hundred dollars. However, much work and material were donated. Recently an improvement, costing two hundred dollars, has been made. At the time the church was dedicated there were only eleven families connected with the church and since that time very few have been added. At present the congregation is served once a month by Father Prokes, of Windom, but arrangements have been made whereby the church is in a circuit with Dundee and now the congregation will have services semi-monthly.

Eighteen years ago the Catholic families in Windom could be counted on the fingers of the two hands. As immigration continued to increase, a few Catholic families moved into the town and community and the need of a church where they could assemble and worship according to the tenets of their faith was sorely felt. The little church on the east side of the railroad track, owned by the Lutheran congregation, was procured and moved onto the two lots donated by the president of the Cottonwood County Bank. This church was used about three years when it became quite inadequate to the needs of the congregation. An agitation for a new building was

started, which resulted in the up-to-date and modern structure located in the northeast part of town. This building was dedicated, November 24-27, 1902, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. Among the pastors who have served the congregation have been the following: Father Sande, Father Vandeniker, Father Schneider, Father Hennekes, Father Prokes. This congregation now has about sixty families.

On January 17, 1911, the Catholics in Jeffers and immediate vicinity met at the call of the pastor, Rev. Anthony Hennekes, at the chapel for the purpose of raising funds for a church building. One thousand six hundred dollars were subscribed in actual money; one hundred and forty dollars in subscriptions, and four village lots were donated by August Pauflhal.

On February 7, 1911, announcement was made to the people that Right Rev. P. R. Heffron had given his permission for the erection of the church. Permission was also given to the Reverend pastor to conduct the Sunday services; to conduct high mass on the first Sunday of each month; to hold vespers on the fourth Sunday of each month and mass the following morning. Albert Schneider and Theophilus Tibbedeaux were presented to the elective board as the first trustees and their names were ratified.

On June 20, 1911, a meeting was called for the purpose of letting the contract for the building of St. Augustine's church. The contract was awarded to Louis Faucher, of Windom, at a cost of one thousand eight hundred and twenty dollars.

On August 20, the church was ready for divine service and the church was dedicated. It was impossible for the Right Reverend Bishop to be present, so the regular pastor conducted the ceremonies. The day was ideal and many of the same faith came from neighboring towns and communities for the occasion. The services began at ten o'clock in the morning, the dedicatory services being followed by high mass. The choir from Sandborn, assisted by local talent, furnished the music for the occasion. The parish of Sandborn also donated the altar for the church.

The first child baptised in this parish was Helen McShea, the daughter of John and Mary McShea. This church now has a membership of about thirty families.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, at Windom, was organized, June 15, 1880, by the Rev. D. Griffin Gunn. The original members of this parish were as follow: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Collins, Mrs. George Besser, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Seeger, Mr. and Mrs. Dummcliff, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Jones

and others. The membership in the spring of 1916 was thirty-eight. A church building was erected in 1881, the first church services being held on June 24.

The following pastors have faithfully served this church since its organization, thirty-six years ago: The Revs. D. Griffin Gunn, Charles S. Ware, C. H. Beaulieu, F. W. White, S. Currie, Elmer E. Lofstrom, Robert C. Ten Broeck, William A. Dennis and the present pastor, Rev. William M. Kearons, the Church of the Good Shepherd: "In his address to the Council of 1872,

The subjoined is found in a written history of the parish register of Bishop Whipple recommended that the clergy on the line of each railway system organize informally and accept the trust of the vacant mission stations.

* * * In his annual report for 1874 the Rev. Edward Livermore names Windom among the places where he has held services during the year. On January 21, 1874, Bishop Whipple made a visit to Windom and preached."

CHAPTER XII.

BENCH AND BAR OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY.

While Cottonwood county may not have had many illustrious legal lights, there have been several lawyers of more than ordinary ability, who have practiced at the Windom bar since the county was organized. It is to be regretted that no bar association has been kept up, with data from which to write a more creditable chapter on this profession, but from old citizens and the few attorneys who are in practice today, of the older class, the following facts have been gleaned.

The pioneer lawyer of the county was doubtless Emory Clark, who came to Windom soon after the county was organized. It may be said of him that he was an excellent man and a good attorney. He died at Worthington, Minnesota, April 2, 1884.

Attorney A. D. Perkins was a native of Erie county, New York, where he was born on March 24, 1847. He took a three-year course in the Griffith Business College, at Springfield, New York. He studied law at home and in law offices and finally opened an office in Alma, Buffalo county, Wisconsin. His next location was at Madelia. He was not successful there and, in March, 1872, came to Windom. The first office to which he was elected was county attorney in 1872, at the same time being elected to the office of probate judge. In 1897 he was elected a member of the upper house of the state Legislature, serving in that capacity for four years. He was appointed district judge of the thirteenth judicial district of Minnesota in 1885, and was elected to that office in 1886. After he retired from the bench he entered church and Sunday school work, in which he was highly successful.

A. W. Annes, attorney, graduated from Michigan University in 1885. He returned to Windom and became principal of the schools. Later he became the law partner of J. S. Ingalls. He is now the present judge of the probate court of Cottonwood county. Mr. Ingalls removed to other parts a number of years ago. It may be added that Mr. Annes taught

school at Madelia, Watonwan county, three years; at Morristown, one year, and Windom two years. He graduated in law at Michigan University; he was county attorney of Cottonwood county three terms; mayor of the city and member of the school board. He is a Mason, an Odd Fellow and a Republican.

George N. Laing was born in Ontario, Canada, November 16, 1850. He studied law in the office of Professor Carpenter at Madison, Wisconsin; graduated from the law school at that place in 1881 and shortly afterward came to Minnesota and located in Windom. He was elected judge of probate in 1882, 1884, 1886 and 1888. In 1887 he was appointed as one of three to revise the probate laws of Minnesota, the revision of which was adopted by the Legislature at the session of 1889.

Judge J. G. Redding, who, until his death, was one of the leading lawyers of Windom, was born at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, in 1849. At seventeen years of age he became a student of Hamline University, where he pursued his studies for three years. He then engaged in teaching school and later studied law for two years, being admitted to the bar in 1871. He came to the village of Windom in 1872. He was elected clerk of the court in 1882 and, on completion of that term, became judge of probate. He was also county attorney and otherwise prominently assisted in the affairs of local government. He died on May 10, 1916.

W. C. Benbow, attorney at law, Windom, was born in Indiana in 1863. He taught school six terms. Graduating at Ann Arbor Law School in 1890, he at once identified himself with this people and was elected county attorney, serving two years. He was editor of the *Citizen* for two years and engaged in the brick and tile business here.

Wilson Borst, attorney at Windom, was born in New York. He was admitted to the bar in New York in 1880 and in 1881 he located in law practice at Fulda, Minnesota. He was soon afterward appointed attorney for the Chicago, St. Paul & Milwaukee Railroad Company, establishing a large practice. He came to Windom in 1894 and served as city attorney. Politically, he has ever been influential. He has long been known as one of the keenest, best posted lawyers in southern Minnesota and had for many years one side of almost every case tried in the courts of the county. In the supreme court he has also been signally successful. He has one of the finest libraries found in a private home or law office in the state.

MEMBERS OF THE BAR IN 1916.

The following are the practicing attorneys of Cottonwood county: O. J. Finstad, county attorney, Windom; Wilson Borst, Windom; Paul S. Redding, Windom; N. L. Glover, Windom; A. W. Annes, Windom; J. L. Sammons, Westbrook.

COURT OFFICERS, 1916.

Hon. L. S. Nelson, presiding judge; P. G. Neufeld, clerk; O. J. Finstad, county attorney; O. G. Peterson, sheriff; J. J. Harper, reporter.

CHAPTER XIII.

EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY.

The pioneer settlers of this county were of the sterling type of American and naturalized foreign citizens who believed in education and in the free school system of this country. Hence we find that as soon as there were the required number of scholars in any given part of the county, a school district was organized, a school house erected and a competent teacher employed to instruct the young. While, between the dry weather and the grasshoppers of the seventies, the first settlers were having a hard struggle to gain a livelihood, yet they managed to maintain a school, which their children might attend at least a part of the time. The early school houses were neat, though quite plain, small frame structures, which, in time, were succeeded by more spacious, better planned and more comfortably furnished buildings. Many of the officials of the county and the leading business men and sturdy farmers of Cottonwood county received their early lessons in these pioneer school buildings, away back in the seventies and early eighties. They well recall, and frequently refer to, the dreary winter days, when the thoughts of both teacher and pupil were centered more on the clouds and the drifting, sifting snows of a genuine Minnesota blizzard than on the lessons found in the text books. In many instances schools had to be closed for part of the winter term on account of the deep snows and fearful storms.

But with the advent of better times, and the increase in population and wealth, the various townships in this county provided splendid country and village school houses, in which modern conveniences were to be found, and such a state of affairs has gradually developed until now the present buildings, their sites and furnishings are as good as the commonwealth affords.

LANDMARK GONE.

The Great Bend school house, built in September, 1871, was destroyed by fire in January, 1916. Although built primarily for a school house, it was always used for religious purposes. It was one of the old landmarks of the county and about the first school house built in the county.

EARLY SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

The first public school district formed in this county was district No. 2, organized by the board at the first county seat, Great Bend, November 25, 1870. It was on petition of James Thompson and others, who organized, under direction of the county board, sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17 and 18, of township 105, range 36 west, into a school district in Great Bend civil township.

School district No. 1 seems to have been the one organized under the petition of Bernard Caughlin and others, the same being composed of sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, of township 105, range 36 west.

District No. 4 was organized by the county commissioners through a well-signed petition presented by the citizens of Westbrook township, and the territory included in the district was sections 7, 8, 17, 18, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32, of township 108, range 37 west, and sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 35 and 36, in township 108, range 38, in Westbrook township.

At the same meeting of the board, school district No. 5 was formed in Springfield township, from sections 26, 27, 28, 33, 34 and 35, in township 105, range 37.

District No. 7 was organized at a special meeting of the county commissioners, February 4, 1871, the same being in Springfield township and composed of sections 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 10, 11 and 15, in township 105, range 37 west.

School district No. 8, in Lakeside township, was organized February 25, 1871, of sections from 1 to 18 inclusive.

Another very early district was that in Mountain Lake township, organized at a special meeting of the county commissioners, May 13, 1871, the territory comprising all of the north half of the township of Mountain Lake.

At a meeting of the commissioners in April, 1871, upon a petition of Daniel D. Bates, a school district was formed from the south half of Mountain Lake township.

The same day, on petition of Simeon Greenfield and others, a school district was formed from sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, in Lakeside township.

School district No. 11 was organized on March 12, 1872, and comprised sections 7, 8, 17, 18, 19 and 20, in township 106, range 35 west, and sections 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20, in township 106, range 36.

EARLY SCHOOL IN DISTRICT NO. 35.

The following is a description of one of the old school houses of school district No. 35, Midway township: The school house was perhaps the only one of its kind in the county. It was a two-story building of eight rooms, two of which were for school purposes, four for family use and two for sleeping rooms. Scholars living at a distance came on Monday morning and remained until Friday night. Patrons furnished the victuals, which were prepared at the school house. At one time this was the largest school in the county, having over forty pupils enrolled, fifteen of whom stayed during the week. Thus a district school and a boarding school were obtained, with none of the disadvantages of either. Mr. Raildbeck served as the teacher for a number of years.

The German school at Mountain Lake began its existence in September, 1868, with Miss Mary Yanka as teacher. At first the school was held in the H. P. Goertz building. There were many people who were unfavorable to this school because they thought the public schools well supplied the needs of the town and community. However, the school progressed with much success and as an educational factor has played an important part in the community.

EARLY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Among the teachers in the county in 1873 were the following: Alice C. Flint, Alice L. Fitch, Alice J. Brown, Nettie Mathews, Emma A. Young, Mary C. Nourse, Nellie C. Imus, Edgar A. Holmes, Orrin P. Moore and G. S. Redding.

Among the teachers in 1874, in addition to several of those mentioned in 1873, were the following: Lars O. Flage, Eva Cook, Orrill Wolcott, Nettie Sacket, Mrs. Bell Sheldon, Kittie M. Tingley, Edith M. Taylor, Mary Yale, Melissa Seeley, Maggie Morrison, William A. Peterson, Mary Bates, Mrs. Oella P. Mason, Mary E. Chapel, Mrs. Rilla Redding and Alva B. Swayne.

In 1875 the needs of the schools were growing and several more teachers entered the profession, among whom were: Della Clark, Mattie Underwood, Lillie J. Smith, Alice R. Jones, Lucy E. Vanbuskirk, Flora L. Oakes, Kittie Tingley, Katie Lamoreau, Belle Graham, Belle Smith, Mrs. Sophie Hayden, Mrs. M. E. Jackson, Clara E. Greenfield, Fannie Herrick, Lann Patrick, Maggie McGaughey, Emma B. Chapel, George Libby, Edith C. Allen,

Minnie Fitch, Naomi Haycraft, Laura Merrill, Abbie Greenfield, Ida L. Hoople and Jessie Underwood.

In these early days of education the school terms were very short, not more than four months and more often two or three. It was no uncommon thing for a teacher to instruct twenty or thirty days and then resign, sometimes voluntarily and other times upon request. A rather unique feature in connection with the educational system, if it can be said that one really existed, was the custom of bonding teachers, especially young lady teachers. It has been hinted to the author that this was on account of the many young ladies who were picked out as being suitable to grace the household of some industrious farmer or business man in need of a helpmate.

FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN THE COUNTY.

The first school house in Cottonwood county was erected in 1871 in district No. 1, Great Bend township, and its first term of school was taught by Miss Nettie Sackett.

BINGHAM LAKE SCHOOLS.

The school and village history of Bingham Lake began about the same time. The village now owns a four-room school building and, although not modern in every sense, it is perfectly adequate and sanitary. It is provided with excellent fire escapes, so that the building can easily be emptied in thirty seconds. Ten grades are taught by four teachers, with Jesse Hustob as principal. During the past year one hundred and thirty pupils were enrolled.

STORDEN SCHOOLS.

The school history of Storden is not very old, for it was only twelve years ago when the school building on the Kahoi Anderson farm was moved into town in order that a central location might be secured. Since then an addition has become necessary to accommodate the needs of the school. During the school year of 1915-1916 ninety-six pupils were enrolled. There is much agitation for a consolidated school, which is certainly commendable and which, if secured, will mean a new building, a high school and a better community interest. The school board is composed of the following: Chairman, J. C. Hanson; treasurer, A. H. Anderson; clerk, S. Anderson.

SCHOOL AT JEFFERS.

A school for the village of Jeffers became a reality on March 31, 1902, when, at a special school meeting, eight thousand dollars worth of bonds were voted for the purpose of buying a school site and the erection of a building. This amount was seen to be insufficient, therefore, on the 12th of May, 1902, two thousand dollars more was voted.

The school is enjoying a very steady growth, the enrollment having increased until at the present time the number is one hundred and sixty-seven. Five teachers are employed and two years of high school work are given. The principal for the school year of 1916 and 1917 is Prof. O. E. Olson.

WESTBROOK SCHOOLS.

No records are at hand on the first organization of common school township No. 57, but the early settlers of this vicinity promptly provided for the educational welfare of their children. The little frame school house that stood at the intersection of the cross-roads on the northwest edge of town will be remembered by many as the seat of learning and social betterment of the early years. In 1899 the building was moved to the location where the imposing brick structure now stands. The teachers at this period were Clara M. Jaeger and Anna M. Amundson, both of whom held second-grade certificates and received the munificent sum of thirty dollars per month. On the 4th of August, 1900, a meeting was held for the purpose of voting on an application for a state loan of two thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a new building. The meeting was presided over by Adolph Peterson, and Henry Peterson acted as clerk. Judging from the number of votes cast, fourteen, all in favor of the resolution, the number of legal voters in Westbrook at that time was not large. A two-story frame building was erected, but in less than two years it was found inadequate and it was proposed to build an addition. The more conservative citizens thought it would be better and cheaper in the end to build a modern school building for the future as well as the present, so arrangements were made for renting additional room and plans made for the present commodious structure.

The teachers of the early Westbrook history were Carrie Seely, Mrs. Cone, of Windom, Winnie Isham, Myrtle Stillings, Alice Seely, Mrs. Roberts and Sadie Wheeler. The last to instruct in the old frame building were G. A. Foster, Bertha Byington, Eleanor Reese, and Alice Seely, who taught the first and second grades in the rented cottages.

The village grew apace and the needs of the school required that it be organized as an independent school district. For that purpose a meeting was held on January 19, 1903, at which C. A. Zieska was chairman and M. A. Johnson, clerk. When the vote was counted, the result showed fifty-two for the resolution and three against.

On February 2 a board of six members was chosen, which included the following men: J. N. Rivers, J. B. Langum, H. W. Footh, J. J. Christy, J. A. Pearson and M. A. Johnson. Upon these men devolved the burden of erecting the new building and directing the destiny of the school.

Early in 1903 steps were taken toward the actual construction of the new building. The one that was first proposed consisted of an eight-room building and a full basement. These plans were accepted and seventeen thousand dollars worth of bonds voted, the vote standing sixty-three to one in favor of the bond issue. As evidence of the district's sound credit, it may be mentioned that the five per cent. bonds were disposed of at a lively scramble by Eastern investors to Winona capitalists at a premium of seventy-five dollars for the issue. The building was constructed the same year and now stands as a monument to those who contended so earnestly for higher education.

At present eight teachers are employed and they have charge of an enrollment of about two hundred and twenty-five. Prof. J. B. Wright is the superintendent, he having served in the capacity for several years, a fact which bespeaks high credit for him, as he has labored honestly and faithfully for the betterment and growth of the school and surely he has been rewarded. However, his success is due in a great measure to the strong support and hearty co-operation of the school board, which at the present time is composed of the following citizens: President, H. W. Footh; treasurer, J. E. Villa; secretary, W. E. Mead; J. E. Nelson, Rev. O. J. Wolff and Mrs. L. P. Pederson.

The school is one of the few in the state to own a school farm. It was acquired under the old Putnam system, but failed because of the usual reasons. In fact, there is only one in the state that can be said to be a success and this one is at Cokato. The farm at Westbrook is at present leased to renters and consists of six and three fourths acres on the northwest side of the town.

The pupils have many of the advantages of the city school, in that agriculture, domestic science and manual training are offered to those who may desire special courses.

WINDOM CITY SCHOOLS.

By Hon. C. W. Gillam.

The history of Windom's public school is so closely connected with the progress of Windom itself that it is almost impossible to give one without giving the other.

Windom was located on the present site in the summer of 1871, and the first school was held in the early fall in the upper room of Loop & Wood's lumber office, with Miss Lawton as teacher. This was sort of a select school, but in October and November of that same year Harvey Klock erected a building where the Redding building (formerly occupied by the Odd Fellows hall) now stands, the upper floor being used for the Masonic hall. The lower floor was rented by the school officers for a public school, and on Monday, December 18, 1871, the first public school in Windom was opened, with O. Phelps as teacher. Mr. Phelps, I believe, taught through the winter term of 1872 and the summer term was taught by Miss Clark, who afterwards became Mrs. Loop, daughter of Lyman Clark.

In October, 1872, an eight-mill tax was levied for teacher's wages and an eight-mill tax for rent and fuel. School opened this year on November 11, with Miss Imus as teacher, followed a little later in the season by Miss Alice Flint (now Mrs. C. A. Ludden, of Pomono, California), who taught during the spring and summer of 1873 with an enrollment of forty pupils.

Windom had grown so rapidly that our people saw that it would be necessary to provide more room to accommodate our school and, to that end, a meeting was called for March, 1873, to vote on the proposition of bonding our school district for four thousand dollars to build a new school house. The proposition carried, and in May, 1873, the contract was let to Samuel Wilson, father of Scott Wilson, to erect a two-story school building on the ground occupied by the present building (two lots having been donated for that purpose by the townsite company). The contract was let for the sum of two thousand nine hundred and ninety-five dollars, and thus was started, forty years ago, Windom's first school building, which was practically completed in December of the same year.

On October 9, 1873, our school officers voted to have eight months school and William Prentiss, who was then county superintendent (now a prominent lawyer in Chicago), was elected to have charge of the school. School opened in the new building on December 3, 1873, and from that time on Windom began to be in the front rank as a school town. With as fine a school building as any town of its size in the state and with a people who

were determined to make this school the best possible, people began to settle in and around our village to avail themselves of our school privileges as early as the seventies.

Mr. Prentiss was again elected for the year 1875-76 and another department was added, with Miss Chapel as teacher. Probably no teacher that has ever occupied our school room had a greater influence over the eighty to one hundred pupils then enrolled than did Mr. Prentiss. He was a friend to everyone, a social, lovable man, and under his administration, during those hard, trying grasshopper times, our school prospered. The social life of our town centered around our school. We had a literary society, debating society, spelling school and so forth, participated in by people of the town as well as pupils of the school. Mr. Prentiss left us when the winter term closed in the spring of 1876 and returned to Macomb, Illinois, to study law. Mrs. Jackson, of Bingham Lake, and Miss Redding were elected to teach for the year of 1876-77 and in the fall of 1877 the board, deciding to have three departments for the winter and two for the summer, voted the sum of one thousand dollars for the school expenses, so you see our teachers did not get rich in those days.

In the fall and winter of 1877-78 L. C. Jones, of Bingham Lake, was elected principal, with two assistant teachers, Miss Taylor and Miss Francis Cooke, and the same line of work was adhered to as the previous year. In the fall of 1878 Mr. Ingalls, Miss Della Clark and Miss Bell Smith (now Mrs. T. C. Collins) were elected to teach for the fall and winter term. It seemed that the people had not been taking the interest in the school that they should and Mr. Ingalls opened his school with an appeal to the people to visit the school more often and co-operate with the teachers to improve it and to help make it a success.

In the fall of 1879 L. J. Robinson, of New York, was elected principal and Mr. Moore and Miss Underwood, assistants. Under Mr. Robinson's supervision our school took on new life and did good work. After completing his school year Mr. Robinson joined the ranks of Windom's business men and thereafter took a prominent part in the upbuilding and improvement of our school. In the fall of 1880, at the school meeting held in September, the ladies of the town decided to take a hand in the election of school officers. In speaking of the meeting the *Windom Reporter* said: "This is the first time the ladies have taken a part in our school meetings and we judge from the interest taken by them that they will hoop'er up to the ugly sex hereafter." They did a great deal of talking back, showing that the fellows who think the ladies don't know how to vote were very badly in error. They

behaved well, did not smoke, nor buttonhole, nor treat, nor do anything to corrupt the meeting (but they elected, if I am not mistaken, Mrs. E. C. Huntington a member of the school board). This, I believe, was the first time the ladies of our town had taken an active part in the business part of our school management.

In the fall and winter of 1880 and 1881 school opened with Mr. Graves as principal and Misses Della Clark and Florence Holmes as teachers in the two departments. There was a total enrollment during the winter term of one hundred and twenty-one and, in connection with the other work, the social literary department of our school was especially active. Debating societies were organized in which the people of our town took an active part with the pupils of our school. Spelling schools were held, dramatic entertainments were given and a general co-operation of students, parents and teachers along these lines added much to the success of the school during the term. At the school meeting held in September, 1881, a nine-months school was voted and one thousand one hundred and fifty dollars was levied for school purposes and one hundred and fifty dollars to build a wood shed. School opened on September 19 with A. W. Annes, of Madelia (later a judge of probate), who had just finished a three-year term at Madelia, as principal, and Miss Della Clark and Miss Florence Holmes as teachers of the primary and intermediate departments. Mr. Annes had a very successful term and was re-engaged for the year 1882-83 with the same assistants in the other departments.

After completing his term, Mr. Annes returned to finish his law course at Michigan University, and H. J. Keith was elected as principal for the year 1883-84, with Miss Della Clark and Miss Nettie Goss for the primary and intermediate departments. Our school had increased in number and when Mr. Keith took charge he found a total enrollment of one hundred and forty. Under Mr. Keith's administration our school began to plan some improvements. Up to this time it had been sailing along under the old common school law, with no apparent end in view except to give our young people the same advantages they might get in any district school of the county, but Mr. Keith, with the assistance of Mr. Robinson, who had now become our county superintendent, planned an eight-year course of study; high school studies to be introduced as rapidly as the needs of the school demanded, and a definite plan of action for future progress was mapped out and a regular course of study was planned for each grade. Up to this time one thousand three hundred dollars had been the most that was levied in any one year for school purposes, but at the school meeting held Sep-

tember 5, 1884, our people began to show signs of breaking ties that up to this time had held them to the old common school system and began to agitate the question of organizing an independent school district. The seeds of progress had been sown and had begun to grow, a public sentiment had been created by the progressive men of our town who were determined to make our school the best possible, and so a tax of one thousand six hundred dollars was levied and a nine-months school in all departments decided upon.

T. J. Hunter was elected principal, with Miss Johnson and Miss Della Clark as teachers for the year 1884-85. School opened September 15 and had an enrollment of about one hundred and seventy before the term ended. At the annual school meeting held in July, 1885, the report showed that two thousand dollars had been expended for the year and a nine-months school was voted. A. W. Annes, who had finished his law course at the University of Michigan and returned to Windom, was again selected as principal of our school, with Miss Della Clark and Miss Johnson as teachers in the primary and intermediate departments. School was opened in September and before the term closed had an enrollment of one hundred and seventy-five. Up to this time Mr. Annes was the only man to be given a second term as principal, with the possible exception of Mr. Prentiss in the seventies. Is it any wonder we made slow progress? Under Mr. Annes' second administration the seed of progress had been sown nearly two years before it began to mature and the result was that in May, 1886, independent school district No. 6 was organized and the first board of education was elected, consisting of E. C. Huntington, J. H. Tilford, J. S. Kibbey, A. W. Annes, J. S. Ingalls and L. J. Robinson. Our school started on the road with flying colors that was eventually to lead to a high school. Our district had already been bonded for four thousand dollars, a portion of which was already due and still unpaid, and a special meeting was called for June 7, 1886, to vote on the proposition to rebond the said district and also to secure additional grounds for school purposes. This meeting was adjourned to the regular meeting to be held July 17. It was given out by the board that was elected in May that their policy would be to establish a system of grading of study as nearly as possible to the one laid down by the state high school board, intending to start a class at the opening of the fall term on the high school course. Their policy also included the rebonding of the district, taking up the old bonds, that were drawing eight per cent. interest, and, with the consent of the people, rebonding at a lower rate of interest. But, alas for the plans of mice and men. When the regular meeting was over it was found that nearly all of this board had been defeated and practically a new board elected. Windom

up to this time, with a population of one thousand people and two hundred scholars, had nothing much better to offer in the way of school privileges than the poorest district in the county; but progress was in the air, and in the minds of many of our people it was believed that we must provide better school advantages, or our young people would soon leave home to attend school elsewhere. So, in the spring of 1887, our board purchased two lots north of the old school building for additional grounds.

In July, 1887, our school board elected James Ruane, later editor of the *Slayton Gazette*, as principal, and Miss Silver and Miss Della Clark as teachers for the intermediate and primary departments, and voted nine months school. At the annual school meeting held in July, 1887, the report showed an enrollment of two hundred and eighteen for the year, with three departments. Think of three teachers doing justice to two hundred and eighteen pupils! A tax levy of two thousand one hundred dollars was voted for school purposes for the coming year. At this meeting John Clark, who built and owned the Park Hotel, and who was a progressive man from the East and very public spirited, made a strong speech in favor of building a new school building and urged the establishing of the high school, but nothing farther was done at this time. Our school board decided to employ four teachers for the coming year. James Ruane, who had been taken sick soon after school opened, was obliged to resign, and M. H. Manuel was secured to take his place, after a three weeks' adjournment of the department. Our school made good progress under Professor Manuel's administration and the board re-elected him for the year 1888-89 and also decided to add another department and build an addition to the school house.

HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT ADDED.

In June, 1888, a special meeting was held, at which it was voted to build a two-story addition on the north side of the old school building on the lot purchased the previous year, and the board was voted permission to borrow three thousand five hundred dollars for the purpose. School opened September 10 that fall with four departments, Professor Manuel as principal, Miss Helen Hunt for the grammar department, Miss Silver for the intermediate, and Miss Della Clark for the primary. During this term all of our teachers put forth every effort in their power to prepare a class for the high school work and to carry out the graded plan. They also prepared classes for the first state examination and the result was that the following year the upper room of the new addition was finished and a high school department added.

In December, 1890, the state high school board placed the Windom high school on the map as a full-fledged state high school.

THE PASSING OF AN EXCELLENT TEACHER.

There is one event in connection with our school that happened about this time that I feel I ought to call your attention to just now and that was the passing of Miss Della Clark from the teaching force of our school. For nearly fifteen years she had devoted her entire time, her talents, and practically her life, to the primary department of our school, with always a very large enrollment in her department, running as high as seventy-five to eighty some years. You teachers who have handled small children can realize something of the responsibility that was upon her shoulders. She was not only a teacher to these children, but practically a mother, as well, always looking after their welfare in school and out, visiting them in sickness, and encouraging them in every way she could. No mother has ever watched over her children closer than did this little woman over her flock of children that was placed in her charge. It was no uncommon sight to see her coming down the street from school house with a dozen or more of her little folks as close to her as they could get. Her services to our school and to the mothers of Windom cannot be estimated, and no amount of money could ever repay her for the sacrifice she has made for the children of our community during those fifteen years.

P. G. Fullerton had now been elected principal, with four other teachers to assist in the other departments, and our school continued to grow. We graduated our first class in the summer of 1892 as follows: Miss Jennie Warren, Miss Nellie Scott, Miss Ada Ellis, Miss Edna Jefferson and Miss Cora Smith.

Mr. Fullerton was re-elected for the year 1892-93, and more improvements and new apparatus were constantly being added to increase the efficiency of our school.

In the fall of 1893 A. N. Farmer was elected superintendent for the school year of 1893-94 with a good corps of teachers and that year a class of three was graduated. Our school was now growing by leaps and bounds, more teachers were being added, and it was very evident that more room would have to be provided. In July of this year our board voted to have free text books and also to secure another room for school purposes. Such a room was fitted up in the temple for a temporary school room, and four thousand dollars was voted for the support of the school for the ensuing

year. Our board, as well as the people of the town, now saw that the time had come when we must build a larger building and as a step in that direction a meeting was called for July 11, 1894, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition of building a new school building upon the present site, and bonding the district for twenty thousand dollars to cover the cost. The result was that the proposition carried, the bonds were sold, and the contract for the new school was let to Donehue & Hoffman, of St. Paul, for sixteen thousand six hundred dollars. Another lot was bought of J. C. Christy and added to the school ground and six thousand dollars was voted for school purposes the coming year.

Professor Farmer was re-elected as superintendent for the year 1894-95 with practically the same corps of teachers, and later the school moved into the new building. Our school continued to increase in the number of pupils enrolled, a large number of them coming from the country to attend. Professor Farmer was again elected for the year 1895-96. For the year 1896-97 Mr. Blanche, who had been filling the place as assistant superintendent, was elected superintendent.

For the year 1897-98 A. F. Armstrong was elected superintendent and at the annual meeting, held in July, the report showed a total expenditure of twelve thousand nine hundred and twenty-five dollars for the year and a cash balance on hand of three thousand three hundred and seven dollars. In 1898 and 1899 Mr. Armstrong was re-elected with an able corps of teachers to assist him, and this year a class of three graduated.

On April 7, 1899, J. M. Rhodes was elected superintendent for the year 1899-1900. He was a man equipped in every way for the position and under his directions our school progressed very rapidly. In the spring a class of nine was graduated and from this time on to the present I believe our school continued to graduate a class each year. Mr. Rhodes was re-elected for the year 1900-01, and at the meeting he showed our school to be in a very prosperous condition, with a large enrollment and a cash balance in the treasury of seven thousand one hundred and ninety-six dollars and twenty-seven cents.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS MADE.

It was beginning to become a problem to provide room to accommodate the pupils that wanted to attend our school and our board saw that it would only be a short time when something would have to be done. So they called a special meeting of the district for October 22, 1900, for the purpose of voting on the proposition of buying the Stedman property, adjoining the

school grounds, and also purchasing a site for a school building on the east side of town. The result was the purchase of the Stedman property for one thousand six hundred dollars, and of block 3 on the east side, for one thousand dollars, and it was voted by the board to elect fifteen teachers for the ensuing year.

In July, 1901, Mr. Rhodes tendered his resignation and Mr. Conger, of Minneapolis, was elected for the year 1901-02.

In the summer of 1902, A. M. Locker was elected superintendent for the year 1902-03 and music was added to our school in connection with the library.

Our board now saw that we would have to have more room the coming year to care properly for the increased attendance and they called a special meeting on June 20, 1903, for the purpose of voting on the question of building a school house and raising funds for the same and deciding on a site. The result was our board was instructed to build a four-room building on block 3, on the east side of the town, and on July 8, 1903, the contract was let to J. B. Nelson, of Mankato, for six thousand seven hundred and twenty-two dollars, all of which was afterwards paid for from funds on hand without an additional bond issue, and at the annual school meeting held in July, 1904, the report showed that the school house had been completed and paid for and a balance on hand of two thousand four hundred and nineteen dollars and fifty-nine cents.

In 1911 the construction of a new school building was begun, at a cost of forty thousand dollars, for high school and grade purposes, commodious and well arranged. The aim of the school board was to make it as near perfect as possible in respect to its light, heat and ventilation. This building was dedicated in January, 1912, with the usual dedicatory ceremonies. Among the notable visitors present were President Vincent, of the State University, and Hon. George B. Aiton, state high school inspector. In the latter's remarks he said that as a preparatory school Windom's was second to none in the state of Minnesota.

The basement of the building contains a gymnasium, sixty-five by thirty-five feet, a domestic science room, and lavatories furnished with lockers and shower baths. The first floor contains quarters for four grade rooms, a normal department and an ungraded room. The second floor provides a high school assembly room, sixty by forty-eight feet, a library, double office, a teachers' room, two class rooms and a place for supplies. The old assembly hall is divided into class rooms for the sciences and languages.

On March 19, 1914, the board had a meeting and selected E. T. Chesnut as superintendent for the year 1914-15 and his work has been so satisfactory that he is still serving in that capacity.

The school year of 1915-16 was perhaps the most successful and prosperous in the history of the school, due in greater part to the untiring efforts of Superintendent Chesnut, assisted by an accommodating and appreciative school board. The board of education at the time this is written consists of the following: President, D. U. Weld; secretary, Dr. F. R. Weiser; treasurer, A. D. Nelson; Jene Anderson, T. A. Perkins and Dr. H. C. Beise. The exact amount paid out by the board for the school maintenance for the school year of 1915-16 was twenty-four thousand three hundred and thirty dollars and eighty-six cents.

The high school offers everything in its course of study that is found in our city schools, including domestic science, manual training, a complete commercial course, agriculture, mechanical drawing and three different languages.

MOUNTAIN LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

There is nothing of a public nature for which the people of Mountain Lake have more reason to feel grateful than their public school. In order to give a brief history of the school it is necessary to begin with the organization of the school district in 1871. At that time there was erected a little "box house," fourteen feet by twenty feet, and which, in the modern sense, would be called a cheap shanty. The weather boarding was of boards placed edge to edge, perpendicular to the foundation. It was through these cracks that the cold winter winds whistled and shrieked and, with other things, caused the big boys to snigger out loud and finally to stand on the floor with their noses in a ring. The school benches were of sawed boards and were placed around the wall, and the teacher's desk, if it may be called such, was near the center of the room. About sixteen or eighteen pupils was the total enrollment.

In 1872 the school district comprised nearly all of what is now Midway and Mountain Lake townships, but, considering this broad area, only thirty-six pupils were in attendance. After 1874, the boundaries of the district contracted from year to year and in 1887 the district comprised only six and three-quarter sections. In 1888, the village formed an independent school district.

In 1875 the one-room school house was situated on the present site of the Mennonite hospital. This building was used for about five years, but

as immigrants were coming in fast, it was necessary to erect a more commodious building. A two-story, two-room building was erected and used for about ten years. Additions were made, until the building consisted of four rooms. The need for a more improved and modern building became imminent, which led to the sale of the building to a hospital corporation and the final construction of the present modern structure in about 1908, at a cost of thirty-two thousand dollars. Already the building has become too small to accommodate the needs of the school and a fifteen-thousand-dollar addition is to be built within the next two years.

Among the early teachers who will be recalled by many of the old settlers are: O. P. Moore, who will always be remembered on account of his spelling reforms; Mr. Sharp, Mrs. Kennedy, J. J. Balzer, I. I. Borgen, Mr. Miller, Miss Rice, Miss Dredge, Miss Yanke and others.

The present school system has at its head Superintendent H. A. Falk, who has been weighed in the balance and found equal to every occasion and emergency. He is assisted by an able corps of sixteen teachers and an appreciative and helping school board consisting of the following men: President, H. P. Goertz; clerk, J. H. Dickman; treasurer, Frank Balzer; A. A. Penner, J. I. Borgen and D. Ewert. In the person of H. P. Goertz, Mountain Lake has a public spirited citizen of whom it may well be proud. When a lad of fifteen years he came to Mountain Lake in 1875 and ever since has been a man of public and business affairs, working tirelessly for the growth and betterment of his community. He has served for twenty-seven years continuously as president of the school board, a fact which alone speaks of the high esteem of his fellow citizens.

The total enrollment for the past school year was three hundred and eighty-five, of which number the high school contributed about one hundred.

In several respects Mountain Lake may not excel other villages of its class in the state, but when educational interests are considered it would be a difficult matter to find another village of the same size that can offer such educational advantages. Besides a German academy, the village has a public school building that might do honor to a town of a much greater population and superior business advantages. The brick edifice is situated on a hillock in the north central part of town, surrounded by a gently sloping lawn interspersed with flowers, trees and shrubbery. The village owns a two-acre tract devoted entirely to agricultural purposes. Individual plats are given to students for the growing of crops and garden products, which, when ready to market, are sold and the proceeds placed in the agricultural fund.

In the way of athletics the high school has always been among the leaders, especially in basket ball. Several times they have been champions of their district and on one or two occasions have been the final contenders for the state championship.

RURAL SCHOOL COMMENCEMENTS.

The third annual rural school graduating exercises occurred in the Wonderland theater July 1, 1916. The theater was packed with an interesting audience which enjoyed the splendid program prepared by Superintendent Iverson.

The rural school graduation has come to be an important event in the county. It means as much to the pupils of rural schools to receive a diploma of work well done as it does to the city pupil. The first event of this kind did not attract much attention. The one held in 1915 was not very well attended, while the one in 1916 was a success in every detail. Future events of this character will doubtless grow in magnitude. State Superintendent Shultz gave the principal address to the forty-five graduates. His address carried with it the idea of preparedness, not for war, but for life.

In the afternoon the school officers held a meeting for the promulgation of ideas pertaining to the betterment of school affairs. Superintendent Shultz spoke, as also did Senator Gillam. Before adjournment an organization was formed known as "Rural School Officers Association," which is intended to be a permanent affair and to take up matters of general benefit in school affairs. The first officers include the following: C. W. Stark, Selma, president; R. C. Asquith, secretary; John Gustafson, Dale, treasurer.

SALARIES PAID COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

Many changes in the salary and plan of remunerating the county school superintendents of Cottonwood county have obtained. The following changes are noted in the commissioners records: In 1872 the salary was fixed at \$20 per year; in 1879 it was increased to \$350 per year; in 1880 it was changed to \$450 per year; in 1882 it was increased to \$520; in 1887 it was fixed at \$600 per year; in 1889 it was changed to \$650; in 1892 the plan was changed and the superintendent received eleven dollars per school district in the county. In 1912 it is shown that the salary was \$1,500 and the officer paid all of his own expenses. In 1914 the wages were changed to \$1,200. The record reads: "On motion, the salary of the county school

superintendent, A. R. Iverson, is fixed at \$1,200 a year, with \$500 additional for clerk hire and expenses, the same to be paid monthly. In 1915 another change was made by the commissioners and the salary of the county superintendent was placed at \$1,450, he to pay his own expenses; also \$250 for clerk hire was allowed him.

LAST SCHOOL LANDS SOLD IN 1891.

Of the vast acreage of school lands sold in this county, the last sales were made in the month of May, 1891, when three thousand acres were disposed of—all there was left at that date.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT FOR 1915.

School District	Male Teachers	Female Teachers	Average Salary, Female	Average Salary Male	Total Enrollment	Months School
1	--	1	\$55	----	16	8
2	--	1	55	----	15	8
3	--	1	60	----	43	8
4	--	1	50	----	18	7
5	--	1	55	----	15	8
7 (S. E.)	--	1	50	----	3	8
7 (N. W.)	--	1	52	----	16	8
10	--	1	18	----	18	9
11 (semi-gr.)	--	2	108	----	47	8
12	1	--	—	\$65	20	7
13	--	1	40	----	21	7
14	--	1	50	----	22	8
15 pupils transferred to Mountain Lake.						
16 (south)	1	--	--	68	23	7
16 (south)	--	1	60	----	20	7
16 (north)	1	--	--	65	22	7
16 (north)	--	1	60	----	34	8
16 (central)	--	1	68	----	24	7
17	--	1	55	----	9	8
18	--	1	40	----	23	8
19	--	1	55	----	22	8
20	--	1	53	----	13	9
21	--	1	50	----	37	8

School District	Male Teachers	Female Teachers	Average Salary, Female	Average Salary, Male	Total Enrollment	Months School
22	--	1	60	----	25	8
23	--	1	50	----	11	8
24	--	1	50	----	15	7
25	--	1	60	----	25	9
26	--	1	50	----	28	7
27	--	1	50	----	42	8
28	--	1	55	----	42	8
29	--	1	55	----	51	8
30	--	1	56	----	19	7
31	--	1	60	----	31	8
32	1	--	--	75	17	6
33	1	--	--	70	20	6
34	--	1	60	----	41	8
35	--	1	55	----	34	8
36	--	1	50	----	25	8
37	1	--	--	75	33	7
38	--	1	55	----	36	8
39	--	1	55	----	27	7
40	--	1	50	----	24	8
41	--	1	55	----	23	7
42	--	1	60	----	28	7
43	--	1	50	----	29	7
44	--	1	60	----	42	8
45	--	1	50	----	31	7
46 (south)	--	1	55	----	15	7
46 (north)	--	1	55	----	28	8
47	--	1	50	----	16	8
48	--	1	60	----	48	8
49	--	1	50	----	36	8
50 (semi-gr.)	--	2	120	----	92	9
51	--	1	50	----	31	7
52	--	1	55	----	29	7
53	--	1	55	----	19	8
54	--	1	50	----	12	8
55	--	1	55	----	24	8
56	--	1	45	----	24	8
58	--	1	60	----	30	8

School District	Male Teachers	Female Teachers	Average Salary, Female	Average Salary, Male	Total Enrollment	Months School
59	--	1	55	----	23	8
60	--	1	50	----	27	7
61	--	1	60	----	35	8
62	--	1	67	----	35	6
63	--	1	50	----	23	7
64	--	1	60	----	27	8
65	--	1	67.50	----	32	6
66	--	1	48	----	20	8
67	--	1	52	----	4	6
68	--	1	55	----	38	7
69	1	--	--	55	33	6
70	--	1	70	----	31	7
72	--	1	50	----	23	8
73	--	1	53	----	36	8
75	--	1	50	----	21	8
76	--	1	55	----	23	8
77	1	--	--	55	29	7
78	--	1	50	----	26	8
79	--	1	50	----	21	7
80 (east)	1	--	--	52.50	7	6
80 (central)	1	--	--	65	22	7
80 (west)	1	--	--	67.50	31	7
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	12	71			2,152	
Average	--	--	\$54.30	\$64.40	----	150 Days

HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

School District	Male Teachers	Female Teachers	Average Salary, Female	Average Salary, Male	Total Enrollment	Months School
6	3	19	\$67	\$143	651	9
8	1	3	55	95	147	9
57	3	12	64	95	348	9
74	2	6	62.50	106	221	9
71	1	4	52.50	100	167	9
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	44	\$60	\$108	1,534	9
Grand total	22	115	57.15	86.20	3,686	

A grand state spelling contest is held each year at the state fair in the Institute building. Each county in the state is allowed to send two representatives to this contest, the same to be winners of county spelling contests.

In Cottonwood county, township contests were held during the past school year and the winners selected from the various townships. The township winners met at Windom, June 30, 1916, to compete for the county championship. Rosie Peterson of Westbrook township, and Almira Riffle, of Mountain Lake, won in the contest, Miss Peterson winning in the oral test and Miss Riffle, the written. Separate contests are held at the state fair, and premiums amounting to forty-five dollars are given in each division.

In 1910 the enrollment in the semi-graded and rural schools of the county was 2,243; number of male teachers, 12; number of female teachers, 72; average wage of male teachers, \$48.33; average wage of female teachers, \$40.36; total number of libraries, 68; volumes in libraries, 5,646; value of libraries, \$3,388.88; number of school districts, 79.

In the high school and graded school districts the enrollment was 878; number of male teachers, 8; number of female teachers, 36; average wage for males, \$105; average wage for females, \$58. Officers at that time were Mr. Hale, president; Mr. Hubbell, vice-president; Mr. Nelson, secretary-treasurer.

AN EARLY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

William Prentiss, now an attorney practicing in Chicago, served as county school superintendent of this county from his appointment in the spring of 1873 to 1877. He left the old farm home in McDonough county, Illinois, in April, 1869, going to Minnesota in search of health, as he had symptoms of pulmonary trouble, which compelled him to quit his college course at Knox College, Illinois. He succeeded in regaining his health. In the spring of 1871 he drove a pair of horses, with covered wagon, from his old home in Illinois, over the states of Illinois and Iowa and landed at Mankato, Minnesota, from which point he went direct to Three Lakes, Cottonwood county. He had pre-empted land and taken a homestead and on a portion of this he put in oats; broke prairie during the early part of the season; worked during harvest time in Blue Earth county, where he remained during the following winter. In 1872 he again broke prairie on his Cottonwood claims; harvested near Madelia, Watonwan county, binding the half of one hundred and sixty acres of wheat and oats on a Marsh harvester. Late in that autumn he returned to Illinois and on Christmas day married Elizabeth Helen

McCaughey and brought her to Cottonwood county the following spring, 1873.

He became an active member of the Patrons of Husbandry and was lecturer, secretary and master of a grange.

In 1873, the first year of the grasshoppers in this county, he lost all save his wheat and oats crop. He was appointed county school superintendent of schools in this county in the spring of 1873, as above mentioned. He went through the entire grasshopper scourge in this county, losing everything he had except the pre-empted quarter section, and left Cottonwood county heavily in debt in the spring of 1876. He had taught school in Windom in the winter of 1873-4 and 1875-6. He left this county simply because the grasshoppers would not let him stay. He re-settled in Macomb county, Illinois, and began the study of law, being admitted to the bar in June, 1878. The following November he was elected state's attorney of McDonough county and was re-elected in 1880. In August, 1891, he moved to Evanston and in 1897 to Chicago, where he is still practicing law successfully. He also kept up an interest in agriculture and owned, a few years since, a farm in Illinois and a fruit farm in Allegan county, Michigan. He served as one of the three civil service commissioners for Chicago at one time.

BURNING OF THE BIG BEND SCHOOL HOUSE.

When the Big Bend school house, the second in the county, was burned a few years since, William A. Peterson wrote an article on its passing. As the historic facts therein are too good to be lost, excerpts from the article are here incorporated in the annals of Cottonwood county:

"When the old 'Bend' school house was destroyed by fire an old landmark in the history of this county was destroyed. The building was the second built in the county and was erected in the fall of 1872—forty-three years ago. The first term of school held in this county was taught by Miss Nettie Sackett, a girl of fifteen years of age, during the summer of 1871, in a sod claim shanty erected by Isaac Vansky about three-quarters of a mile to the northwest of the site on which this school house was later built.

"During the winter of 1871-72, a term of school was taught in the sod shanty by Cyrus M. Finch and in the winter of 1872-73 John E. Teed, brother of William M. Teed and Mrs. D. B. Jones, taught the first school in the new school building above referred to. The building was not then as large as it was later.

"The old school house has been the social center of a large neighborhood

since it was first built and many notable gatherings have been held there and many quite famous speakers have addressed audiences in it. The Bend neighborhood has always been a religious community, since its first settlement. The first sermon I heard preached in the county, and it was doubtless the first ever heard here, was preached by Rev. Edward Savage, then a young unmarried man, just out of college. It was preached in a claim shanty on the Dave Evans farm of eighty acres, in the summer of 1870. Somewhere about the same time, Rev. Peter Baker, an itinerant Methodist Episcopal preacher, began preaching in the neighborhood occasionally. During the same year, 1871, preaching services were held in the sod school house above referred to, and a Sunday school was organized. After the Bend school house was erected, in the fall of 1872, divine services and Sunday school were held there and were continued regularly for the last forty-three years.

"The first Methodist church in this county, I think, was organized there; Rev. J. W. Lewis was the first pastor.

"The Des Moines Valley Patrons of Husbandry (Grange) was organized and held its meetings and social gatherings in this building for a number of years. Hon. William Prentiss, now of Chicago, a former county school superintendent, was one of the officers and lecturers for this society.

"Political meetings, farmers' clubs and, in fact, gatherings of all kinds have been held there. It has been a central place of meeting for a large community for all these long years.

"Many of the younger generation of the valley and old settlers have a very warm spot in their hearts, and many a fond recollection of this old school house has been the pleasure of these people. But it is gone. The fiery elements have licked it up and we fondly hope to see a modern and more pretentious edifice erected on the very spot where it stood for so many years. Nothing can ever take its place in our hearts and memories, nor quench our love for dear old 'Bend school house.'"

CHAPTER XIV.

BANKS AND BANKING.

Prior to the spring of 1881 Cottonwood county had no bank within its borders—in fact, there had not been much demand for such a business institution up to within a few years of that date. The men who first came to locate in this county had been for the most part soldiers of the Civil War and immigrants from beyond the big seas, and neither class had much money to deposit, even had there been such an institution here. Much of the money borrowed by the people of Cottonwood county, in order to get established here, was obtained from some of the Eastern loan companies who usually exacted two per cent commission for securing a loan and then the borrower had to pay ten per cent. and even higher interest for the use of the money.

But as the farmers and business men in various sections of the county commenced to thrive and “get a few dollars ahead,” the demand for a bank was keenly felt, as the people had to go to Mankato or New Ulm to do their banking business. Every city and village within the county now has one or more banks and all do a good, safe business. The amount of their deposits, as shown in their detailed history in this chapter, shows that the poverty of thirty and forty years ago has all been changed into good bank accounts.

THE BANK OF WINDOM.

The Bank of Windom, the pioneer banking house of Cottonwood county, was established in 1881. Among the presidents were John Hutton and J. N. McGregor. W. J. Clark was its assistant cashier. It was reorganized into a state bank in 1885, with a paid-up capital of forty thousand dollars. In May, 1892, the capital was increased to one hundred thousand dollars (authorized amount), of which sixty-five thousand dollars was paid up. Its directors were, in 1893, John Hutton, A. Queveli, W. J. Clark, C. A. Ludden, J. N. McGregor, E. C. Huntington and J. H. Clark.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WINDOM.

The First National Bank of Windom was organized as the successor of the oldest banking house in the county—the Bank of Windom, organized

in March, 1881. The First National was organized on April 26, 1897, on a capital of fifty thousand dollars, same as it carries today. It was established by John Hutton, A. D. Perkins, J. N. McGregor, W. J. Clark, E. C. Huntington, T. A. Perkins and others. The first officers were: A. D. Perkins, president; John Hutton, vice-president; W. J. Clark, cashier; T. A. Perkins, assistant cashier. The officers in June, 1916, are: W. J. Clark, president; E. C. Huntington, vice-president; Carl Nelson, vice-president; T. A. Perkins, cashier; N. M. Nelson, assistant cashier. The present board of directors are, Jens Anderson, W. J. Clark, E. C. Huntington, Carl Nelson and T. A. Perkins.

The recent statements show deposits amounting to one million dollars. The resources and liabilities are one million, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; surplus one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The magnificent bank building is constructed of buff Bedford sandstone, erected in 1911 at a cost of thirty-two thousand dollars. The citizens of Cottonwood county and the county seat town may well feel a pride in having so splendid a banking house as that of the First National Bank. Its management has always given satisfaction to the hundreds of patrons who have trusted their funds to it.

Of its predecessor, the old Bank of Windom, it may be stated that it was founded by P. C. Kniss, of Lu Verne, who conducted it less than one year, when he sold to Erick Sevaton and A. D. Perkins, who conducted it as a private bank for sometime thereafter. Finally, A. D. Perkins and others established what was known as the "People's Bank," which was the most successful bank in the place. Seeing that this was true, the owners of the old Windom Bank desired to merge with the People's Bank, which was consummated, Mr. Perkins was elected president of the new bank and the officers of the First National included the officers of the old bank in part, as will be observed above. Hence the First National is the direct successor to the first bank in Cottonwood county, which was established in March, 1881.

THE WINDOM NATIONAL BANK.

The Windom National Bank was established August 6, 1902, by D. U. Weld, C. W. Gillam, Dr. H. C. Beise, H. M. Goss, C. B. Pierce, M. L. Fisch, M. T. DeWolf, E. Z. Weld, F. J. Carpenter, Jens Anderson, John J. Rupp and others. Its first and present capital is thirty-five thousand dollars. This banking institution opened its doors for business, December 10, 1902. In January, 1903, it had resources of more than seventy thousand

dollars; in 1905 it reached seventy-eight thousand and more; in 1909 it was almost three hundred and fourteen thousand; in 1911 it had reached almost five hundred thousand dollars and, March 7, 1916, its statements show about seven hundred thousand dollars in total resources. On the date last named the following is a copy of their statement of resources and liabilities: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$458,970.66; overdrafts, \$519.39; United States bonds, \$35,000; banking house, \$17,800; cash and due from banks, \$113,435.29; total resources, \$623,731.34. Liabilities—Capital stock, \$35,000; surplus fund (earned), \$35,000; undivided profits, \$11,736.59; circulation, \$35,000; deposits, \$506,994.75; total liabilities, \$623,731.34.

A general commercial banking business is transacted by this concern, and in the fourteen years of its history it has built up a splendid business and earned a surplus equal to its capital after paying dividends every year since its organization to its stockholders. The resources and liabilities at the last call amounted to \$627,493.14; deposits, \$510,476.99.

The banking corporation own their own bank building, a solid pressed brick structure, trimmed with blue Bedford stone, erected in 1902, at a cost of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars.

The officers of the bank from its organization have been: D. U. Weld, president; C. W. Gillam, vice-president; John J. Rupp, cashier. J. B. Benson is at present the assistant cashier and M. C. Langley, teller. The present directors are, D. U. Weld, C. W. Gillam, M. T. De Wolf, C. B. Pierce, M. L. Fish, H. S. Kellom and John J. Rupp. But few banks in Minnesota can show a better record during the years of its history than this one at Windom.

FARMERS STATE BANK, WINDOM.

The Farmers State Bank, at Windom, was organized on August 1, 1907, by T. C. Collins, B. Klassen, E. D. Mooers, H. E. Hanson, Andrew C. Olson, J. F. French, John Paulson, C. A. Baxter and D. A. Noble. The original capital stock was thirty-five thousand dollars, same as today. The first officers were, T. C. Collins, president; C. A. Baxter, vice-president; H. E. Hanson, cashier; E. A. Sime, assistant cashier. The officers in 1916 are, H. E. Hanson, president; Dr. L. Sogge, vice president; M. T. Anderson, cashier; E. A. Sime, assistant cashier.

A good brick bank building was erected in 1895, which cost the builders eight thousand dollars. It should be understood that this bank succeeded to the business of the old Cottonwood County Bank, with which T. C. Collins and others were connected.

The directors of the Farmers Savings Bank are now (1916), Dr. L. Sogge, H. E. Hanson, R. D. Collins, E. D. Mooers, John Paulson, D. A. Noble, Andrew C. Olson, W. I. Silliman and E. H. Klock. At the close of business, June 30, 1916, their statement shows that the institution had resources and liabilities amounting to \$412,925.72. The resources were divided as follows: Loans and discounts, \$379,141.04; overdrafts, \$1,607.27; banking house, \$10,500; cash and due from banks, \$21,685.41. Their deposits are as follows: Time deposits, \$283,920.22; demand deposits, \$78,327.61, making a total of \$362,247.83.

PEOPLE'S BANK OF WINDOM.

This bank was established on December 18, 1892. Its popular president was Senator E. Sevaton. J. E. Foss was the active manager and cashier. This bank was finally succeeded by the Farmers State Bank of Windom.

THE COTTONWOOD COUNTY BANK.

This bank was established on July 1, 1889, and its early officers were as follows: T. C. Collins, president; A. E. Woodruff, vice-president, and William A. Smith, cashier. It had a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, of which fifty thousand dollars was paid up. The board of directors consisted of T. C. Collins, A. E. Woodruff, William A. Smith, H. Traut-fether, L. J. Robinson, S. Huntington, M. T. De Wolf, A. S. Collins and C. W. Gillam.

THE STATE BANK OF JEFFERS.

The State Bank of Jeffers was established at the village of Jeffers in 1909 by J. J. Duroe and sons, on a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars. The first, as well as the present, officers of this banking house are, F. E. Duroe, president; E. M. Duroe and L. A. Duroe, vice-presidents; C. R. Duroe, cashier, and C. O. Castledine, assistant cashier.

The statement put out June 30, 1916, shows resources and liabilities amounting to \$215,948.32. Of this, there was a surplus fund of \$5,000 dollars and undivided profits of \$5,135.59. The demand deposits amounted at that date to \$93,324.02 and the time certificates of deposit were \$117,478.71. The latest figures given show that this bank's deposits amount to about \$210,000.

A fine brick and cement banking building was constructed in 1911, the

cost of which was seven thousand five hundred dollars. It was during that year that the old bank building was burned, at a loss of over two thousand dollars over and above the insurance received. This bank is doing a splendid business and certainly merits the full confidence of the wealthy community in which it is located.

THE FARMERS STATE BANK OF JEFFERS.

The Farmers State Bank of Jeffers commenced business, May 3, 1915, on a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars and with the following officers, which are also the present ones: President, J. H. Dickman; vice-presidents, D. A. Lahart and A. W. Mertens; cashier, C. E. Perkins; assistant cashier, F. J. Werner.

In the beginning of the bank's history a modern brick building was erected at a cost of five thousand dollars. A person need only notice the weekly statement issued June 30, 1916, to prove how prosperous the bank has been. Their own expression, "We are young, but we are growing," is certainly true. The resources and liabilities show a sum amounting to \$85,345.83. Of this there was a surplus fund of \$3,000, and undivided profits amounting to \$1,731.25. The deposits amounted to \$58,614.58.

THE FIRST STATE BANK OF STORDEN.

The First State Bank of Storden was established, January 8, 1904, by W. J. Clark, T. A. Perkins and C. H. Huhberg and on a capital of fifteen thousand dollars. The first officers were the following: President, W. J. Clark; vice-president, Dan Hedman; cashier, C. H. Huhberg. The present officers are, president, W. J. Clark; vice-president, H. H. Peterson; cashier, C. H. Huhberg; assistant cashier, Sophus Anderson; teller, George Huhberg.

The bank started business in its own building, which is a frame structure, costing over four thousand dollars. The bank, although only a little over twelve years old, has enjoyed a period of great prosperity. The bank statement issued at the close of the month's business for June, 1916, showed resources and liabilities amounting to \$246,179. Of this, there was a surplus fund of \$15,000.00 and undivided profits to the amount of \$7,972.55.

The increased deposits from year to year is one of the strongest recommendations a bank can have. For instance on June 1, 1914, the deposits amounted to \$156,433.08; June 1, 1915, \$183,626.80; June 1, 1916, \$198,321. This bank is absolutely controlled by home people and home capital and merits the full confidence of business people.

THE FARMERS STATE BANK OF STORDEN.

One of the infant banks of the county in so far as age is concerned is the Farmers State Bank of Storden. This bank was organized December 10, 1915, by P. G. Hiebert and commenced business January 10, 1916, on a capital of ten thousand dollars. The first as well as the present officers of this banking institution are: D. G. Hiebert, president; A. H. Anderson, vice-president; P. G. Hiebert, cashier. The directors are, D. G. Hiebert, A. H. Anderson, H. P. Goertz, J. E. Youngck, J. E. Nelson, A. O. Stark and P. G. Hiebert.

The bank has under construction a modern brick building that is to cost five thousand dollars and which, when completed, will be a pride and ornament to the town.

The monthly statement issued June 30, 1916, shows resources and liabilities amounting to \$47,659.11. Of this amount, was a surplus of \$2,000 and deposits amounting to \$35,659.11. These facts show that the people of the community have great confidence in the well-known business ability of the men at the head of the institution.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MOUNTAIN LAKE.

The First National Bank of Mountain Lake was organized in 1908 on a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars, with John J. Rupp as president and C. C. Mertens as cashier. The present officers include the following: John J. Rupp, president; John Jungas, vice-president; Abraham Janzen, cashier, and F. F. Schroeder, assistant cashier. In 1911 the bank moved into its new and modern brick building, which cost in the neighborhood of seven thousand dollars.

At the end of the month's business, June 30, 1916, the resources and liabilities were \$225,000, and the deposits \$165,000. Concerning the fact that the present capital is only twenty-five thousand dollars, these figures indicate an excellent showing and unlimited confidence in the business ability and integrity of the bank's officers.

THE FIRST STATE BANK OF MOUNTAIN LAKE.

The First State Bank of Mountain Lake was established in 1889, on a capital stock of \$28,000.00, with the following officers: David Ewert,

president; John Janzen, vice-president; H. P. Gortz, cashier. In 1907 this bank was consolidated with the State Bank of Mountain Lake.

According to the monthly statement issued June 30, 1916, the bank's resources and liabilities amounted to \$460,634.00. Of this, was a surplus fund of \$10,000.00, and undivided profits of \$1,881.94. The individual deposits amounted to \$140,853.68, and the time deposits \$257,898.38, making a total of \$398,752.06.

In 1902 the directors decided upon a bank and office building, which was erected at a cost of \$12,000.

The capital stock has been raised to \$50,000 and there have been several changes in the personnel of the officers since the beginning. The present officers include the following: David Ewert, president; H. P. Goertz and Frank Balzer, vice-presidents; J. H. Dickman, cashier; D. G. Hiebert, assistant cashier; D. J. Schroeder, teller. The present board of directors are as follows: David Ewert, C. Penner, J. H. Dickman, W. J. Janssen, H. P. Goertz, Frank Balzer, J. G. Hiebert, D. G. Hiebert and A. C. Dick.

The bank's motto, "Stability and Service," is not an idle expression and carries with it everything the name implies. The officers are accommodating and obliging to strangers as well as home folks and certainly merit the large amount of business that they receive.

CITIZENS STATE BANK OF WESTBROOK.

The Citizens State Bank of Westbrook was organized in 1902 by Dr. C. P. Nelson, John E. Villa, W. B. Leo, T. Torjusen, W. C. Brown and others. The first officers of the bank were: President, T. Torjusen; vice-president, C. P. Nelson; cashier, C. A. Zieske. The officers have all changed since the beginning and now they are as follows: John E. Villa, president; H. W. Footh, vice-president; A. O. Iverson, cashier; L. L. Footh, assistant cashier.

The statement put out on June 30, 1916, shows resources and liabilities amounting to \$188,393.11. Of this, there was a capital stock and surplus fund of \$32,000.00 and undivided profits amounting to \$1,716.83. The deposits reached the high mark of \$154,676.28.

In 1902 the directors saw fit to construct a brick building for their own use, costing \$4,500.00. The name of John E. Villa, one of the earliest settlers in the village of Westbrook, connected with an institution of this kind, is alone enough to inspire confidence and warrants the growing business of the concern.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WESTBROOK.

This banking concern was organized in 1900 as a state bank, but changed its name to the First National Bank in 1902. It was established by J. W. Benson, president, of Heron Lake. The first capital stock was \$25,000, but in July, 1916, this was increased to \$30,000, at which time the total deposits were \$270,000. The total amount of resources and corresponding liabilities of this bank is \$350,000. A good two-story, brick bank building was built in 1900, at a cost of \$6,500.

The original officers of the bank were: J. W. Benson, president; John E. Nelson, vice-president, Westbrook; J. A. Pearson, cashier, Westbrook. The 1916 officers are as follows: J. W. Benson, president; John E. Nelson, and John J. Christy, vice-presidents; A. F. Meyer, cashier; Joseph Budish, assistant cashier.

FIRST STATE BANK OF BINGHAM LAKE.

The First State Bank of Bingham Lake was organized on August 5, 1904, by John Henderson, P. K. McMurtry, John J. Rupp, S. L. Rogers, A. L. Holt, D. U. Weld, C. W. Gillam, A. J. Wicklund, E. J. Gove, John J. Goertzen, C. K. Hakes, F. L. Langley, C. A. Liem, F. H. Bland, A. J. Goertzen, Henry Goertzen and N. P. Minion.

The first capital was ten thousand dollars, the same as today. The first officers were as follow: Board of directors, John Henderson, P. K. McMurtry, John J. Rupp, E. J. Gove, D. U. Weld, Henry Goertzen and N. P. Minion; E. J. Gove, president; John J. Rupp, vice-president, and P. K. McMurtry, cashier. The present (1916) officers are: J. A. Redding, president; N. P. Minion, vice-president; D. J. Voth, cashier. The 1916 board of directors are as follow: N. P. Minion, A. J. Wicklund, V. E. Rogers, J. A. Redding, A. J. Goertzen, J. J. Rupp and Earl Marshall.

The motto of this bank is "Active, Alert, Alive." This concern owns its own bank building. It was robbed on June 15, 1907, by Chester and White, who were tried and sentenced to Stillwater prison for nine and ten years respectively.

The deposits have grown as follow: 1905, \$10,280.30; 1906, \$15,506.82; 1907, \$19,504.39; 1908, \$20,966.31; 1909, \$27,531.11; 1910, \$29,045.61; 1911, \$36,965.51; 1912, \$36,634.50; 1913, \$40,562.57; 1914, \$46,743.82; 1915, \$65,875.88; January 1, 1916, \$74,600.93; August 1, 1916, \$88,261.34. On June 30, 1916, the resources and liabilities amounted to

\$99,363.77. On that date the surplus was \$1,650; notes rediscounted and bills payable, \$8,000; deposits, \$79,686.77; banking house and fixtures, \$2,792.90, overdrafts, \$271.43. The policy of this bank is conservative management, ample resources, courteous treatment and superior facilities.

STATE BANK OF DELFT.

This bank—the last established in Cottonwood county—was given a corporate existence on July 1, 1916, and was chartered to continue for thirteen years. The first board of directors are T. A. Perkins, W. J. Clark, H. D. Peters, Cornelius Goetzen, Jacob Rupp, Henry Hokanson, C. Blier. The capital is ten thousand dollars, fully paid up. The president is T. A. Perkins; vice-president, H. D. Peters; cashier, Henry Hokanson.

RECAPITULATION OF BANKS.

The following shows the number of banks, the date of establishment, capital and present deposits of each one in Cottonwood county:

Bank of Windom—Organized in 1881; authorized capital, \$100,000; out of business.

First National Bank of Windom—Organized in 1897; capital, \$150,000; deposits, \$1,000,000.

Windom National Bank—Organized in 1902; capital, \$35,000; deposits, \$507,000.

Farmers State Bank of Windom—Organized in 1907; capital, \$35,000; deposits, \$362,247.83.

Peoples Bank of Windom—Organized in 1892; out of business now.

Cottonwood County Bank—Organized in 1889; capital, \$100,000; succeeded by the Farmers State Bank of Windom.

State Bank of Jeffers—Organized in 1900; capital, \$25,000; deposits, \$210,000.

Farmers Bank of Jeffers—Organized in 1915; capital, \$15,000; deposits, \$58,614.58.

First State Bank of Storden—Organized in 1904; capital, \$15,000; deposits, \$198,321.

Farmers State Bank of Storden—Organized in 1916; capital, \$10,000; deposits, \$35,659.11.

First National Bank of Mountain Lake—Organized in 1908; capital, \$25,000; deposits, \$165,000.

First State Bank of Mountain Lake—Organized in 1889; capital, \$28,000; deposits, \$398,752.06.

Citizens State Bank of Westbrook—Organized in 1902; capital, \$32,000; deposits, \$154,676.28.

First National Bank of Westbrook—Organized in 1900; capital, \$30,000; deposits, \$270,000.

First National Bank of Bingham Lake—Organized in 1904; capital, \$10,000; deposits, \$88,261.34.

The State Bank of Delft—Organized July 1, 1916; capital and surplus, \$12,000.

Total amount of present capital in all banks, \$422,000; total amount of present (1916) deposits, \$3,448,532.20; total number of banks in county, August, 1916, thirteen.

CHAPTER XV.

RAILROADS AND TRANSPORTATION.

Cottonwood county was fortunate in one particular in its settlement in that it did not have to wait long for railroad facilities after the first settlers made their advent. In many localities the pioneer band went into the wilderness ten and twenty years before the sound of the locomotive's shrill whistle was heard there. Hence they had to haul supplies from fifty to one hundred and more miles and also had no market where they could dispose of the stock and crops which they raised, except at faraway cities on some stream or railroad line.

About 1870 the railway now known as the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha (then the Sioux City & St. Paul) was constructed through this county en route from Sioux City at the southwest to St. Paul at the northeast. This was Cottonwood's first steam rail thoroughfare. It soon established stations at the villages of Mountain Lake, now in Midway township; Bingham Lake, in Lakeside township, and Windom, the county seat, in Great Bend township. Thus the first railway facilities were in the extreme southeastern portion of the county. There was but little settlement made in this county until late in the sixties, so that even the earliest band of pioneers had to wait but a very few years for the arrival of a railroad. In the remainder of the county—the real homestead and pre-emption section—many years longer elapsed before they had a railroad near at hand.

"THE CURRIE BRANCH."

What is styled the Currie branch of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha road extends from Bingham Lake, Cottonwood county, north and west to Currie, in central Murray county, Minnesota. It was constructed in 1900 and during that and the succeeding three years the company established town plats and built stations at the now sprightly villages of Delft, situated in Carson township; Jeffers, in Amboy township; Storden, in Storden township, and Westbrook in Westbrook township, near the western line of this county. This railroad line has greatly enhanced the value of the central and western part of the territory, and has caused these four villages to spring up

as if by magic, while the junction with the main line at Bingham Lake has added greatly to the importance of that village.

THE CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN LINE.

The extreme northeastern corner of this county—sections 3, 11 and 13, of Selma township, is traversed by a branch of the great Northwestern system extending from a point in northern Redwood county to central Iowa. In Brown county, just to the north of Cottonwood county, is a station on this road, on the county line, known as Comfrey, the major part of which is situated in Brown county, while some of the residences, etc., are in Cottonwood county. This affords the people of this county who reside in the northeastern portion an opportunity to trade and do marketing there. So, strictly speaking, there are only eight out of the eighteen civil townships of Cottonwood county which have a railroad station. But there are small villages in the several adjoining counties to Cottonwood which accommodate its citizens.

By reason of these railroads having been constructed through the county at about the time the heaviest settlement was effected, a majority of the lumber for residence building, the wire for fencing and other heavy freight did not have to be drawn by teams scores of miles, as was the case in many another western county.

While the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha road is but a part of the Chicago & Northwestern system and the Currie branch also belongs to this road, it may be said that every mile of railroad within the borders of Cottonwood county is under the control of the Chicago & Northwestern system, one of the best railway properties in all the great northwestern country.

HOW CONSTRUCTED.

In many counties of the West the people have been obliged to put up large subsidies in way of taxes and subscriptions in order to obtain a road, but the first road here was built under the old land grant system, granted by Congress in 1857 and later. By the terms of this grant, every other section of land within certain limits of the road was given to the construction companies. While, as a matter of fact, it was an expensive proposition in the end and placed a large amount of the eminent domain in the hands of railroad corporations, yet the actual settler was not obliged to be taxed directly for such internal improvement of the country.

Of more recent years the railroads of the West have had to build their

feeders and branches without public aid and were glad to do so, for it was and ever will be a paying investment, as the vast harvest field products of the territory through which they run are annually shipped over each line to the markets of the East.

By these various lines of steam railroad in Cottonwood county the lumber of the northern country, the coal from the southeast and the general merchandise of manufactured goods, farm implements, furniture and hard coal from the faraway mines of Pennsylvania, are brought hither to the very door of the farmer and townsmen of this county, making it a prosperous country. The "homesteader" and the "steam horse" have made the prairie wilderness of forty-five years ago to blossom like the rose.

CHAPTER XVI.

MILITARY MATTERS.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The great military organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, is represented in Cottonwood county at only one place, Windom, where the only post the county has ever had exists. The first post here was known as Stephen Miller Post No. 38, organized December 3, 1874, and which existed a few years and then disbanded. It had a membership of fifty soldiers.

The present post is LaGrange Post No. 79, organized March 15, 1884, with a charter membership of forty-nine comrades of the Civil War, as follow: S. M. Espey, deceased; Charles Winzer, deceased; W. W. Barlow, C. F. Warren, deceased; Freeman Trowbridge, deceased; James W. Hayes, deceased; Thomas S. Potter, deceased; John Malmstein, deceased; David P. Langley, W. B. Williams, W. W. Frost, deceased; A. J. Hall, deceased; D. C. Ashley, deceased; T. S. Brown, deceased; Zed. Day, deceased; M. Chase, deceased; Jerome Cutler, deceased; J. A. Brown, C. A. Chandler, deceased; William Copp, H. A. Cone, deceased; Z. B. Chatfield, W. B. Fry, deceased; Allen Gardner, deceased; J. F. French, deceased; J. F. Force, H. S. Ellis, A. J. Frost, deceased; S. S. Gillam, A. Ingalls, deceased; E. Leonard, A. W. Johnson, deceased; John Tilford, deceased; E. M. Peterson, Orrin Nason, deceased; J. E. Mace, deceased; W. A. Potter, A. A. Miles, deceased; R. R. Janness, S. O. Taggart, deceased, A. A. Start, deceased; J. M. Root, deceased; C. W. Seely, Paul Seegar, deceased; W. W. Zuel, deceased; Ezra Winslow, E. W. Vanhorn, deceased; C. A. Wood, S. J. Woodward, deceased; J. W. Cogley, deceased.

The total present membership of the post is seventeen. About a year ago it was as low as six members, but the plucky commander, W. H. Jones, kept it alive, got members re-instated and new members until the present seventeen were secured. Mr. Jones has been commander for sixteen years in succession. The post meets twice each month at the post rooms in the court house (the jury room being allotted to the Grand Army).

The first commander was S. M. Espey and the first adjutant was J. J. Kendall. The 1916 officers are: W. H. Jones, commander; C. W. Seely, senior vice-commander; W. A. Potter, junior vice-commander; William S. Skellie, chaplain; J. A. Brown, adjutant and quartermaster. The post has had enrolled on its books one hundred and twenty-two names.

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS.

As a very helpful auxiliary to the Grand Army post at Windom is the Woman's Relief Corps No. 36, organized August 27, 1887, with eighteen charter members. It now has a membership of only thirteen. Its president is Mrs. H. M. Goss; secretary, Mary Robison; treasurer, Mrs. A. P. Jones, wife of the present commander of the post.

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

In the city cemetery stands a very imposing granite shaft about eighteen feet high, surmounted by a bronze American eagle with outstretched wings. This was erected about 1910 and the cost was twelve hundred dollars, seven hundred dollars being donated by the post; three hundred dollars by the Woman's Relief Corps; one hundred dollars by the First National Bank and one hundred dollars by the Cemetery Association of the city of Windom. It is situated in what is known as "Soldier's Square" at the cemetery.

HELPED CAPTURE JEFF DAVIS.

In a recent issue of the *Westbrook Sentinel* the following article was contributed by C. W. Seely, a Civil War veteran, who aided in the capture of the Confederate president, Jefferson C. Davis:

On Sunday, April 2, 1865, at ten o'clock in the morning, General Lee, commander of the Rebel army around Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia, sent Davis a dispatch containing very nearly these words: "My lines are broken in three places; Richmond must be evacuated this evening." That message found Mr. Davis in church at eleven o'clock in the morning where it was handed to him amid an awful hush, and he immediately went quietly, soberly out, never to return as president of the Confederacy. No word was spoken, but the whole assemblage felt that the message he had so hastily perused bore words of doom. Though the handwriting was not blazoned on the wall, it needed no Daniel to declare its import, but no one, at this date, can understand what that message meant to those in the doomed city. Men,

women and children rushed from the church, word passing from lip to lip the news of the impending fall of Richmond and it was difficult to believe it. It was late in the afternoon when signs of evacuation became apparent to the incredulous. Wagons on the streets were being hastily loaded at the rebel capital with boxes and trunks and driven to the Danville depot. Vehicles suddenly rose to a value that was astonishing; as high as one hundred dollars in gold was offered for a conveyance and all over the city it was the same. Night came and all was confusion. There was no sleep in Richmond that night. Morning broke upon a scene such as those who saw it can never forget. Jefferson Davis left Richmond, Virginia, at ten o'clock at night for Danville, Virginia, where he halted and where he hoped Lee to follow with the remnant of his army and form a junction with General Johnson. Mr. Davis, with his staff, halted at Danville and set up government, issuing orders and so forth. Here he waited several days in hopes of Lee's approach, but, instead, received word of the surrender of Lee's army.

The Confederacy thereupon took to wheels again and retreated by rail to Greensborough, North Carolina, where another considerable halt was made, the days and nights being spent mostly in the cars by the president and his cabinet and followers. Since very few of the citizens saw fit to throw open the doors to him, when Johnson talked of surrendering, he was compelled to make another flight, this time in wagons and on horseback (the railroads having been torn up) by way of Salisbury to Charlotte, North Carolina, where his ark again rested for a few days and where he was received with great hospitality. Reports of Stoneman's cavalry coming that way caused another flight, via Yorkville and Abbeyville, South Carolina.

Being now compelled to take entirely to horse and escorted by two thousand cavalry, who, as well as the presidential cortege, gradually dwindled away, they reached Washington, Georgia, where the formal dissolution of a government was dispensed with, most of the cabinet itself having by this time abandoned the sinking craft, leaving Davis, attended by Regan, his late postmaster-general, and his military staff and the remaining fugitives, with a small but selected escort of mounted men who took their way southward, hoping to make some small port on the coast and thence out of the country.

Mr. Davis had separated from his family for greater safety, but on an alarm of peril to which they were said to be exposed from a conspiracy to rob them of the gold they were supposed to be carrying, had rejoined them over night at Dublin, Georgia, this being the place where the First Wisconsin Cavalry struck his trail some twenty-four hours later. From here Davis went to Hawkinsville, Georgia, and on the same side of the river, thence

south about twenty-five miles to Evansville, Georgia. There he was captured on May 10, 1865, and was taken back to Macon, whence he was taken, via Savannah and the ocean, to Fortress Monroe, where he was long closely and rigorously imprisoned, while his family was returned by water to Savannah and there set at liberty.

Davis was finally released on bail, Horace Greeley and others going on his bond. He then went to England, finally returning to the United States for trial and was let go as a disfranchised citizen. He then went to Mississippi and there spent the remainder of his life.

WE ARE GROWING OLD, JOHN.

The following poem was written in 1908 by J. S. McDaniel, late first lieutenant of Company B, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, and dedicated to the author of this history, John A. Brown, his comrade during the days of the Civil War. The names used are well-known in Windom; for example, the name "Dave" refers to D. A. Noble, who enlisted the same day Mr. Brown did and fought on the same fields, and is among the few survivors of that great conflict:

We're growing old and gray, John,
We're growing old and gray;
I've passed the three score and ten,
And you're far on the way.

Some are in advance, John,
And some are close behind;
Many have fallen by the way—
Life's battles they've resigned.

But still I see you all, John,
As in the long ago—
As in the days of "sixty-one,"
Ere we had met the foe.

I see you young and strong, John,,
"With heart for any fate,"
Resolved, our fathers' starry flag
Shall wave o'er every state.

I see you on the march, John,
Through swamp and through bayou;
I see you in the Vicksburg siege,
And near the dread Yazoo.

I see your men at Big Black,
 Holding Johnson there at bay;
 Now I see you crossing over,
 And see Johnson run away.

Then you follow him to Jackson,
 "Here," he says, "I'll make a stay."
 But he did not like the Yankees,
 So, he "fights and runs away."

I called the roll today, John,
 As I called it long ago,
 But the names forever silent
 It would pain your heart to know.

Called Bishop, Whytock and La Flesh,
 Called Reppy, Stone and Scott,
 Called Tom and Sam and Brad and Lon—
 Called, but they answered not.

Of all the four or five score men
 Who once stood up in line;
 Save you and Dave and me, John,
 The roll call shows but nine.

Nor is it strange; you know, John
 Long years have passed away—
 It is not strange so few are left,
 Left till this later day.

A few more months or years, John,
 A roll call then will tell
 That those who answered "Here" today,
 Have said their last "farewell."

Then why, why shed a tear, John
 O'er comrades now no more,
 When we soon will meet them,
 On Canaan's happy shore.

SIXTY-ONE.

SOLDIERS WHO PLEDGED THEIR VOTE TO GRANT AND WILSON.

When U. S. Grant ran for President the second time (1872) the following veterans of the Civil War pledged themselves, by a notice in the *Windom Reporter*, to support him for President at the election that fall, and as it will serve the double purpose of recording the names of many of the returned veterans who had settled in Cottonwood county, as well as what regiment they were in, besides showing how they voted at that day, it is here inserted in list form:

- D. W. Working, Fourth Minnesota Infantry.
 Samuel M. Espey, First Ohio Light Artillery.
 George P. Johnston, United States Reserve Marines.
 C. L. Hubbs, First Minnesota Infantry.
 N. H. Manning, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.
 Paul Seeger, Ninth Minnesota Infantry.
 W. J. Leisure, Twenty-eighth Vermont Volunteer Infantry, Illinois.
 L. M. Wilson, Second Vermont Volunteer Infantry.
 T. C. Richmond, Third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.
 L. L. Ordwell, Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.
 W. C. Banks, Second Ohio Heavy Artillery.
 J. W. Benjamin, Eleventh Volunteer Minnesota Infantry.
 Addison Hall, Ninth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.
 W. W. Frost, Third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.
 D. M. Sheldon, Nineteenth Wisconsin Infantry.
 K. W. Sheldon, Nineteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.
 Asa A. Start, Tenth Vermont Volunteer Infantry.
 J. Cutler, Second Vermont Volunteer Infantry.
 J. K. McLain, Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.
 Frank Parso, Twenty-first Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry.
 Lamont Gilbert, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery.
 Joel A. Clark, Fifth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.
 A. Anderson, First Iowa Volunteer Cavalry.
 George A. Greenfield, First Minnesota Battery.
 Jacob Isaacson, Sixth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry.
 Karl Oleson, Thirty-first Volunteer Iowa Infantry.
 J. H. Ewing, Eleventh Wisconsin Volunteer Veteran Infantry.
 George L. Loope, Ninth New York Volunteer Cavalry.
 A. J. Frost, Eighteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.
 C. Nixon, First M. M. Brigade.
 Leonard Aldrich, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.
 F. M. Byran, One Hundred and Twenty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry.
 O. C. Anton, Forty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.
 I. H. Reisdorf, Eighty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry.
 J. E. Mace, Twelfth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.
 Thomas S. Brown, Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.
 W. B. Williams, Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

M. DeWolf, Tenth New York Volunteer Cavalry.
James C. Brown, Eleventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.
George Hubbs, First Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry.
Ezra Winslow, Second Maine Cavalry.
Peter W. Oakley, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR SOLDIERS.

At the time of the Spanish-American War in 1898 there was no regular militia company organized in Cottonwood county, and it was from such that the troops were largely made up for that short but truly decisive conflict, hence those who went from this country enlisted in other Minnesota commands.

The list of soldiers serving in this war from here was as follows: P. G. Redding, G. Redding, the former in Company H, Twelfth Minnesota Regiment, at New Ulm, and the latter in Company B; Ernest Dow, Company H, two Quiring brothers, John Savage, son of the late Reverend Savage. All but Dow were discharged from camps in the South and never saw service out of the United States, while he re-enlisted and was sent to the Phillipine islands. All served in the Twelfth Minnesota save Mr. Savage, who was in the Fifteenth Minnesota. He enlisted at Worthington.

CHAPTER XVII.

CITY OF WINDOM.

Windom, named in honor of United States Senator William Windom, a native of Ohio, but long an honored resident of Minnesota, is situated on the banks of the Des Moines river, one hundred and fifty miles southwest of St. Paul and one hundred and twenty-two miles northeast from Sioux City, Iowa. Windom was declared the county seat of Cottonwood county in the autumn of 1872, the county officers having maintained their offices at a point a few miles up the river at what was known as Great Bend, for a short period after the county was organized.

The population of Windom, according to the United States reports for 1890, 1900 and 1910 was as follow: In 1890 it was 835; in 1900 it had reached 1,944, but in 1910 had fallen to 1,749. It is now supposed to have about two thousand—possibly twenty-one hundred.

The first building really worth mentioning on the plat was the one erected on lot 8, block 18, about the middle of June, 1871, by S. M. Espey, which was used by Espey & Lukens as a hardware store. Among the early buildings, one of importance was the Windom hotel, erected on the corner of Third avenue and Ninth street by Clark & Bell. E. C. Huntington established the *Reporter* as the first newspaper of Windom and Cottonwood county, issuing volume 1, number 1, on September 7, 1871.

Perhaps the description of Windom given by Editor Huntington in his paper will give a clearer understanding of the surroundings and first events than any other account that can be now reproduced.

WINDOM AS VIEWED IN 1893.

Editor Huntington, of the *Windom Reporter*, in his paper in April, 1893, speaks of Windom and its prospects after the following fashion:

"The history of Windom is not one of the precious relics of the ancient world, which the capricious centuries have let drift to us, nor is it one of the precious treasures which lies buried beyond recovery under the 'tide whose waves are years.' There is no spirit of Attica breathing through the records, telling of the valor of barbarian founders; no pre-historic ruins or relics of

dead ages encumber the site of the growing city. The city and surrounding country are but a chapter of American life, with its push and energy. The pioneers, many of whom are still living happily in the retrospect of labor well done, were not the 'sons of holy gods, culling the fruits of illustrious wisdom from unharried land,' but were the sons of the unconquerable Anglo-Saxon, who gave to the world the Magna Charta, political and religious liberty, and whose onward march has planted civilization and the Cross wherever its sturdy sons have gone. There is but little romance connected with the early days of this prosperous town and county. Its lowly history deals more largely in the modest yet manly experiences of the ones who toiled and laid the foundations of a prosperity that has continued and widened, and will continue to grow until the brightest dreams of the most hopeful have been realized.

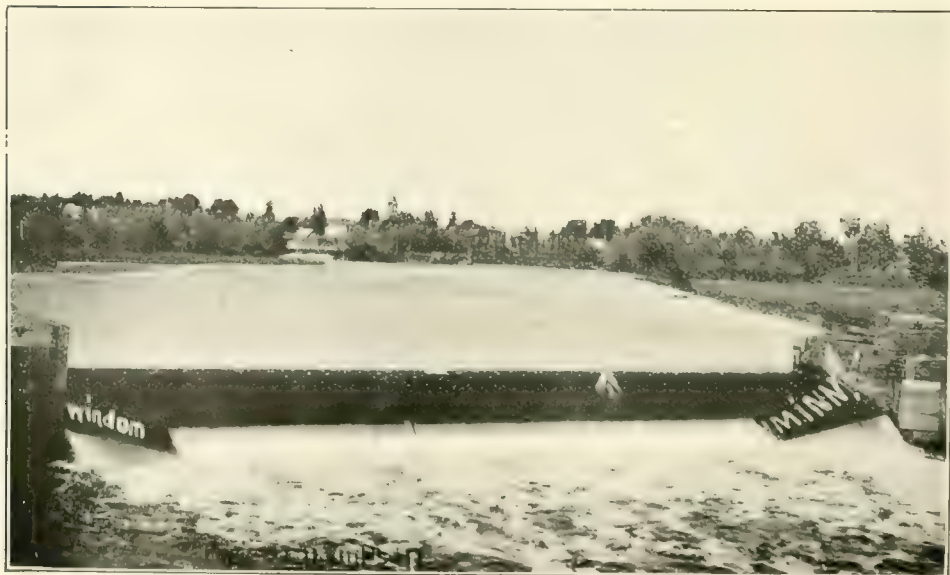
"Its shipping embraces grain, stock and flour and a large local trade has built up an aggregate of many large, thriving establishments creditable to the little city. Her school building is a model structure of modern convenience and architecture. Her schools are on a par with any of the country, being taught by competent and skilled instructors. She has six churches; three solid banking institutions; a flour-milling capacity of one hundred and twenty-five barrels daily; four large elevators, a tow mill and a splendid stock market. Windom now has a population of nearly fifteen hundred as cultured and refined people as can be found in our great state of Minnesota. The streets are wide and well kept, and the business portion of the place completely surrounds a beautiful park which is nicely grown up to large shade trees and is laid out in beautiful driveways; some of the beautiful dwellings are nestled beneath the side of a towering hill, while others are on the banks of the historic Des Moines river, which carves its way to the great Mississippi, thence to the ocean. Then, in closing, we may be pardoned for mentioning the two weekly newspapers."

It was in the early spring of 1871 that S. M. Espey first came to Windom, after having traveled over the territories from the Pacific slope in search of a home. He came to Windom before the railroad came through, hauled lumber from St. James to erect his store and, in company with A. P. Lukens, set up an establishment on the southeast corner of block 18. They engaged in the hardware business for a year or two and then the firm sold to Stark & Williams. Mr. Espey, soon after the opening of his store, was appointed postmaster and served in that capacity for ten years.

In 1871 John Hutton and W. H. Wilson began business together. In a short time Wilson sold his interests and, moving to LuVerne, engaged in



BRIDGE ACROSS DES MOINES RIVER, WINDOM.



THE DAM AT WINDOM.



BUILDING OF FOSS MERCANTILE CO., WINDOM.



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, WINDOM.

business there. During the several years of grasshopper devastation, Mr. Hutton gave immense credit to the farmers, with little prospect of payment, but, strong in the faith that the country must in the future outgrow its then bad record, he did much toward holding settlers on their claims, for without indulgence on the part of the business men depopulation would have become complete. The country rallied from the distress, the farmers began to prosper, and Mr. Hutton, with the rest of the business men, were finally rewarded with the payment of old claims.

FIRST EVENTS.

The village of Windom was platted June 20, 1871, by A. L. Beach, of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company. One week before its platting, A. P. Lukens, S. C. Highly and others arrived with lumber and commenced the erection of buildings. Early in June of that year S. Huddleston & Sons erected a bakery on lot No. 8, of block No. 8, and dug the first well in the village plat. They built an oven with blue clay obtained in the digging of the well. In this oven was baked Windom's first loaf of bread.

Among the first events in the young village may be mentioned the following: The first sermon in Windom was by Rev. J. E. Fitch in Espey & Lukens' hardware building. The first dance in town was in the same building. The first attempt at organizing a lodge in Windom was in October, 1871, when the Masonic fraternity commenced its work here. The first attorney in the place was Emory Clark. The first physician was Dr. Allen Smith, who commenced his practice in October, 1871. He returned to Ohio, from which state he had emigrated, and there died. The first death was that of P. A. Ruhberg, on March 13, 1873. The first school was taught as a "select" school by Miss Hellen F. Lawton, in the winter of 1871-2. The first train of cars to enter the village was early in July, 1871. The first postmaster was S. M. Espey. The Presbyterian church was organized on October 15, 1871, with eight members and Rev. E. Savage as its pastor. The first Methodist Episcopal church quarterly conference was held at Windom in December, 1871. In September and October, 1871, ten thousand dollars were paid out in the village for wheat. In 1874 Windom had three churches—Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal. Prudence Masonic Lodge was also then in operation. In 1873 a large two-story school house was erected at a cost of four thousand dollars. The first term of school was taught there in the winter of 1873-4. In the spring of 1873

large quantities of lumber were rafted to Jackson and to points in Iowa, on the Des Moines river. That year the wagon bridge was constructed by N. H. Manning.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, 1872 AND 1882.

Upon the first anniversary of the village of Windom, the following business interests were represented:

Attorneys—E. Clark, J. G. Redding and A. D. Perkins.

Furniture dealer—McMurtrey & Freeman.

Flour dealer—L. Clark.

General dealers—D. Patten & Co., M. E. Donohue, Hutton & Wilson.

Harness shop—J. Hoople.

Hardware and implements—Espey & Lukens.

Hotel—The Windom, the Hyatt House.

Implement dealer—Graves & Co.

Jeweler—C. A. Ludden.

Lumber dealer—G. L. Loope, St. Paul Lumber Co., T. W. Gilleland, agent.

Meat market—H. M. Clark.

Newspaper—*The Windom Reporter*, S. and E. C. Huntington, editors.

Nursery—E. B. Jordan, agent.

Physician—Dr. A. Smith.

Wagonmaker—E. Morton.

In a period of ten years the village grew considerably, as is evidenced by the business directory of 1882:

Attorneys—A. D. Perkins, Redding & Laing.

Agricultural implements—B. W. May, S. S. & A. W. Johnson.

Blacksmith shops—P. A. Ruhberg, John Svenson, Sherwood & Hubbel.

J. McCurtrey.

Bank—Bank of Windom.

Druggists—D. Patten & Co., Tilford & Klock, A. Quevli.

Flour and feed dealers—S. S. & A. W. Johnson, LeTourneau & Gillam.

Furniture dealers—Mrs. L. D. Smith, Jenness Bros.

General dealers—John Hutton, R. R. Jenness, P. Seeger, A. Quevli, E. & S. Sevaton.

Harness shop—J. A. Hoople.

Hotels—The Clark House, owned by J. Clark; Windom Hotel, M.

Grimes, proprietor; The Hyatt House, W. W. Barlow, proprietor; City Hotel, John Nolan, proprietor.

Hardware dealers—R. E. McGregor, William Besser.

Hay pressers—J. H. Clark, Paul Seeger, J. G. Redding, Clark & May.

Jeweler—C. A. Ludden.

Lime and fuel dealer—George Besser.

Livery—James Hanton, Gabriel Oleson.

Lumber dealer—J. H. Clark.

Meat Markets—H. M. Clark, Nason & Halter.

Millinery shops—Mrs. H. S. Ellis, Mrs. LeTourneau.

Mills—Windom Mill, owners Collins & Drake; Seeker's Custom Mill.

Machine shop—Novelty works, owned by L. Clark.

Physicians—C. A. Greene, J. H. Tilford, S. D. Allen.

Repair shop—H. C. Gillam.

Restaurant—Mrs. A. H. Bosworth.

Real estate dealers—Huntington & Perkins, Redding & Laing.

Sorghum refinery—B. W. May.

Wagon shop—W. B. Cook.

In 1882 the village had seven hundred inhabitants, two neat little churches, Methodist and Episcopal, and a Presbyterian church under construction.

WINDOM POSTOFFICE.

Windom postoffice was established in 1871 and up to this date there have been no irregularities or robberies in the postoffice here. The receipts of the office, not including money order transactions, during the last fiscal year ending July 1, 1916, were \$10,282.27.

Five rural free delivery routes extend out from Windom into the surrounding country. The following is a list of the postmasters who have served since the establishment of the Windom postoffice: S. M. Espey, H. A. Cone, S. B. Stedman, Joseph McMurtrey, George E. LeTourneau, M. T. DeWolf, A. J. DeWolf, H. E. Hanson, G. E. LeTourneau, present postmaster. These names are given in the order in which the postmasters have served, nine in all, making the average term held by the several postmasters, five years. These men have been fairly representative citizens of the place and have sought to serve the patrons faithfully and well.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Windom was separated from Great Bend township and incorporated as a village in the spring of 1875. Emory Clark, attorney, was elected the first president and C. H. Smith, recorder; the trustees were, M. Grimes, L. D. Smith, J. N. McGregor. The first ordinance was passed by the council on April 15, 1875, and related to the selling and bartering of intoxicating liquors within the village.

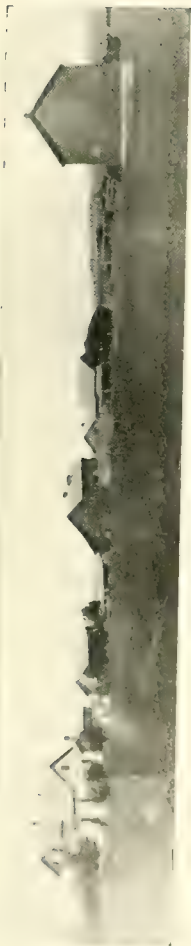
Among the presidents who have served the village have been: Emory Clark, John Clark, S. M. Espey, A. W. Annes, John Hutton, M. T. DeWolf, C. W. Gillam, W. A. Smith, E. H. Klock, Jens Anderson, L. Sogge and Gustav Miller.

RE-INCORPORATION.

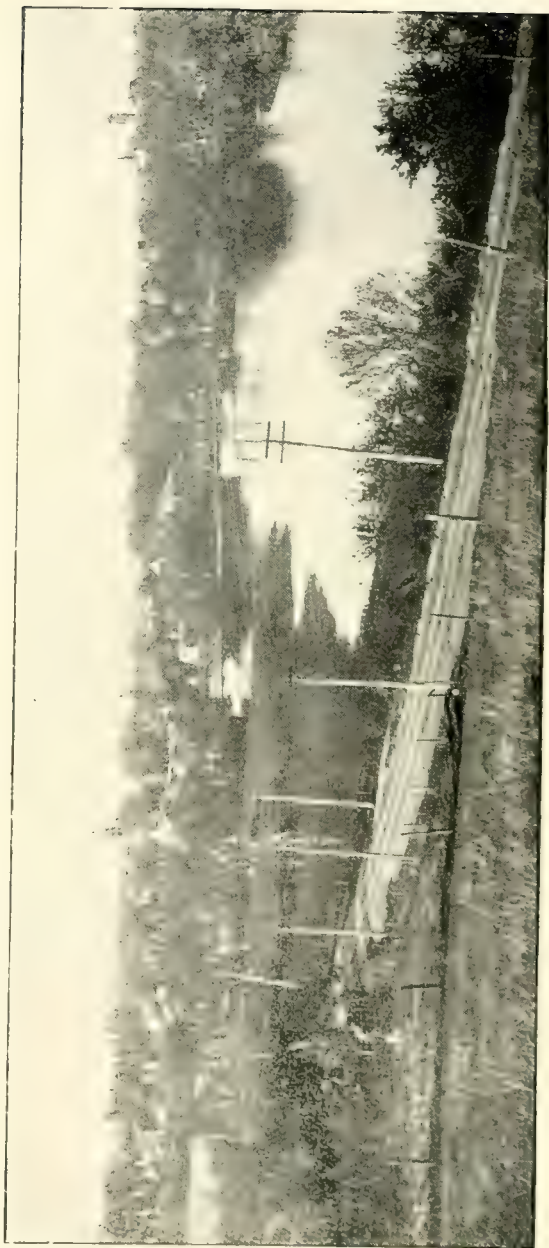
On September 9, 1884, an election was held to determine whether the village should remain under the original charter or reorganize under the provisions of the law of 1883. The reasons for this action on the part of the council were the doubts in regard to the construction of the charter, which had been amended and so mutilated by the insertion of an amendment in the wrong place as to make it almost impossible to construe it at all, thus leaving the city with a form of a charter which might have been good, but under which it was unsafe to proceed further. The trouble was discovered at the time of the Woolstencroft prosecution in 1882, but it was not until 1884 that the charter began to show lack of value in the prosecution then pending. It was thought by able counsel that the village had no right to prosecute for an offense against the ordinances and the opinion involved so much doubt that the council thought it wise to incorporate under the general laws rather than take a chance of testing the old charter in the courts, with little hope of success. The result of the election upheld the opinion of the council, the proposition carrying by a vote of sixty-six to thirty-nine. The first officers under the new incorporation were: A. D. Perkins, president; C. F. Warren, recorder; trustees, C. A. Ludden, A. W. Johnson and John Hutton.

In 1916 the town was again re-incorporated and this time with the following officers: Gustav Muller, president; O. E. Elness, J. O. Thompson and T. A. Perkins, trustees; P. S. Redding, clerk.

The present indebtedness of the town is forty-five thousand dollars. An electric light system was installed in 1915 and 1916 at a cost of twenty-



FARM SCENE NEAR WINDOW.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF WINDOW.

six thousand dollars and a great amount of money has been expended on street improvement, for which the town has every reason to be proud. In the way of fire protection, the city depends upon direct pressure and is equipped with two hose carts, one hook and ladder wagon, one thousand feet of fire hose and a volunteer fire company of twenty-five men.

In the way of parks, the town has two, well provided with shade trees and nicely kept.

THE WATERWORKS.

The water supply for the town of Windom up to early in the year 1913 was from a well, generally supposed to be two hundred and eighty feet deep. In addition to this deep well, were a couple of small points feeding into the bottom of a large pumping reservoir from a sixty-five-foot vein.

The deep well pumping outfit had become stopped up in some manner and all efforts to dislodge the obstruction or get hold of it failed. It was decided to procure a deep well drilling outfit and put down a twelve-inch pipe and point in the reservoir where the small points were feeding into the bottom. A contract was entered into with the J. F. McCarthy Company, of Minneapolis, to do the work. A twelve-inch pipe and a point or strainer was put down to the sixty-five foot vein, with the result that an additional supply of water was secured, but not enough to supply the demands.

While the well outfit was still on the grounds, it was decided to try and remove the obstruction in the deep well. When the obstruction was encountered the drillers could not drill through it faster than six to eight inches in two days and they could not pull the old pipe and get to the strainer. The deep well was abandoned.

The supposition prevailed that another twelve-inch pipe to the sixty-five foot water vein might supply enough water to make another storage reservoir and thus get a sufficient supply without going to the expense of another deep well. The drilling machine was moved to the west side of the power house and a twelve-inch pipe put down. The water vein was very shallow and so full of fine sand that its use was almost out of the question. A test was made and, at the very best, the flow was only eighty-five to ninety gallons per minute. The old deep well pump was set up over this well and pumped occasionally to help out the reservoir supply on the east side.

On the 8th of June, 1914, the council decided to put down another deep well and advertised for bids. The J. F. McCarthy Company were the successful bidders, the price being six dollars per foot, the town to furnish the fuel for the engine and they to pay all other expenses. Work was com-

menced on July 13, 1914. The well when completed consisted of a twelve-inch hole to the depth of two hundred and ninety-one feet from the surface of the ground.

The pipe used was standard well pipe, forty-nine pounds to the foot. The well is equipped with twenty feet of No. 12 Johnson strainer in two pieces, six and fourteen feet long respectively. This screen sets in about a foot of clay on the bottom of the well; a course of gravel strata of nearly nine feet above that and another strata of gravel about six feet above that. This gives the well about fifteen feet of gravel on the strainer. As a test, the well was pumped twenty-three hours continuously, from ten o'clock in the morning, September 4, to nine o'clock in the morning, September 5. This test developed over two hundred and twenty gallons per minute and seemed to improve as the pumping continued.

WINDOM LIBRARY.

The Windom Library Association was organized in November, 1883. At the first meeting, which was held in the school house, G. M. Laing was chosen temporary chairman and H. J. Keith, secretary. The meeting proceeded to perfect an organization which resulted as follow: Doctor Tilford, president; Mrs. LeTourneau, vice-president; Mrs. Huntington, secretary; Mr. Perkins, treasurer; Mr. Espey, librarian. The object of the organization was to advance the mental and moral interests of Windom and the surrounding community. Any person could become a member of the organization upon the payment of two dollars or the contributing of five dollars worth of books. A ticket of membership could be used by any member of the family. For non-subscribers a nominal fee of ten cents was charged for the use of a book.

The state of Minnesota has made it possible for all towns and communities that cannot support a library to make use of the traveling state library. It was really by this means that the present library was started.

The Tourist Club first made it possible to secure the traveling library of fifty volumes and had their headquarters in the directors' room of what is now the Farmers State Bank. After two or three years of successful operation, it was requested of the club that they should take over the subscription library of the town, consisting of three hundred and fifty volumes. This was accomplished and a room was given them in the basement of the court house.

At present the library consists of one thousand one hundred volumes and

two traveling state libraries, one of which is the juvenile. Seventy-five books of general literature belonging to the state are in the library all the time. Three thousand five hundred books are loaned annually. In the way of magazines and papers nothing is taken but the *Book Review*.

The means of support is the one big question in connection with an institution of this kind. As the books are loaned free of charge to anyone in the county, little is derived from this source except in the way of fines, which amounts to about fifteen dollars per year. In order that expenses may be kept at a minimum, members of the Tourist Club act as librarian, serving in alphabetical order. The city council appropriates the small sum of fifty dollars annually and the club a sum equal to about half the amount. The library is kept open only on Saturday afternoons.

True, it can readily be seen that the library is being kept alive with the fond hope that in the near future it may receive the support from the town and county to which it is rightfully entitled.

FERRY.

In April, 1881, rain and melting snow occasioned a rapid rise in all the rivers with the result that the railroad and wagon bridges in Windom were washed out. The loss of the wagon bridge made immediate action necessary for a means of crossing the river until a new bridge could be built. Private boats were put into use for a day or two and twenty-five cents charged for the carrying of passengers across. The village council deeming that suitable means and safety should be provided for the convenience of the public, at once decided to operate a rope ferry, together with a small boat, first as a matter of convenience to the public and, second, to protect them from imposition. Failing to find private parties ready to engage in the enterprise, council began work upon the boats. In a day or two a skiff was put on for immediate use, which served well for the removal of freight and passengers until a larger boat could be built. But the large boat could not be used until eight hundred feet of one and one-half inch rope was secured. About two hundred dollars were expended, besides paying a man two dollars per day for operating the ferry.

To meet the outlay, the council established the following schedule of rates: Footmen, ten cents for round trip; man and horse, ten cents each way, fifteen cents a round trip; cattle, five cents each; teams, one way, twenty cents; both ways, twenty-five cents; single horse and carriage, fifteen and twenty cents; school children, free; tickets for foot passengers, in packages of twenty-five and upwards, half price.

THE FIRST ELEVATOR.

In August, 1873, D. Patten & Co. began the erection of a grain elevator, the first one to be built on the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad, with a capacity of fifteen thousand bushels. The firm commenced buying grain in 1871 in a little warehouse on the side track between Eighth and Ninth streets. Soon the capacity of this structure became too small and in 1872 the firm constructed another warehouse between Ninth and Tenth streets, and finally the increased amount of business led to the construction of the elevator.

THE RUSE HOSPITAL.

The Ruse hospital was started by Mrs. A. Ruse in 1906 and has earned quite a reputation as a place of exact medical science and courteous treatment. All kinds of surgical operations and medical treatments are conducted by the physicians in charge, namely, Doctors Sogge, Dudley and Weiser. Most of the time three nurses are employed who have in their care about two hundred patients annually.

CIGAR FACTORY.

The cigar factory No. 194, owned and operated by O. S. Skillingstad, was started in 1905 by the present owner and since that time has enjoyed a most profitable business. Mr. Skillingstad manufactures several different brands. The high quality and satisfaction of his goods is evidenced by the fact that the smokers of the town of Windom consume nearly his entire output, which averages about one hundred thousand annually.

WINDOM ICE CREAM FACTORY.

Probably but few Windom people realize that they have a most flourishing little manufacturing plant in their midst in the Windom Ice Cream Factory. H. E. Hakes, the owner and proprietor of the ice cream factory and the creamery in connection, removed here from Bingham Lake in the fall of 1915, and his coming brought with it the removal of the ice cream plant from that place. Mr. Hakes has a most enviable reputation as a producer of pure ice cream, and the high quality of goods he puts out keeps spreading the sale of his products. He has the most improved machinery for the manufacturing of ice cream and he is able to turn out several hundred gallons of



NINTH STREET, WINDOM.



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, WINDOM.

the cooling cream a day. Every train out of Windom carries it in large quantities. Besides Windom, he supplies every town on the Currie branch, as well as supplying dealers at Mountain Lake, St. James, Heron Lake, Sibley, Iowa; Slayton, Lake Nelson, Brewster, Adrian and other places. At the present time Mr. Hakes employs four people in the ice cream factory and on the milk and cream routes which he also owns.

THE FLOURING MILLS.

The flouring mill is one of Windom's prides. The mill was built by E. F. Drake and Samuel Collins in 1878. The first mill dam was constructed in 1878 just opposite the mill. For some reason or other this dam proved very inadequate and was constantly washing out and in need of repair. The present dam was constructed in the summer and fall of 1885. The dam is one hundred and twenty-five feet long and forty feet wide at the top, giving a fall of ten feet. It was constructed of brush, hay and gravel and is known as Bell's patent. The system was successfully used by Captain Eads in his jetty work at the mouth of the Mississippi river. This dam is located about eighty rods below the wagon bridge and about twenty rods below the bridge is the mill race which leads to the flume, which is seventy feet long and fourteen feet square.

Water power alone was employed until 1882, when steam power was added, to be used when the water in the Des Moines river was too low to furnish the power required. In 1882 Drake became the sole owner and continued to operate the mill until 1902, when T. C. Collins acquired the plant and continued to run it until his death, in October, 1914. In 1906 the firm became known as T. C. Collins & Son and since the father's death the son has had control and management of the concern. Thus three generations of Collins have had to do with the flour-making industry of Windom.

The daily capacity of the mill is one hundred and fifty barrels and their well-known brands of flour have ready sale within a radius of one hundred miles. Another article of merit that is here manufactured is a breakfast food.

The Windom Wagon Factory was organized January 10, 1899, with a capital stock of five thousand dollars. The officers in 1901 were, W. A. Smith, president; C. W. Gillam, secretary and treasurer; O. S. Thompson, general manager. During the first two years of operation this company built and placed on the market fifty splendid wagons.

TILE FACTORY.

The tile factory owned by Walter Cowan has been in existence for many years, but the exact date of its beginning cannot be obtained. Mr. Cowan has owned the factory for several years and has manufactured many thousands of tile. Since the farmers are beginning to realize the necessity of tiling, Mr. Cowan can hardly supply the demand. During the summer months he gives employment to several men and it may be said that through the influence of the factory much business is brought to Windom that otherwise would go elsewhere.

THE WINDOM MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The Windom Manufacturing Company was one of the early industries of Windom. It served well its day of usefulness, when flax was raised on the broad prairies of southwestern Minnesota. About 1892-3 W. A. Turner established a large tow-mill at Windom. He had a large building and dry rooms in which the raw material was dried before entering further into the mill. He had a fifty-eight-horse-power engine to propel his machinery. He had to run the flax straw through his mill twice after it was taken from the dry room, which was kept at a temperature of two hundred and twenty degrees, with a drying capacity of one ton per hour. His mill had a capacity of six tons a day.

This concern also started in to manufacture a new kind of self-feeders for threshing machines, flax breaks and rice machines. After the growth of flax was discontinued in this section of the country, this factory had to abandon its enterprise, but, while running, paid out eight thousand dollars a year for flax straw to the surrounding farmers.

LANDMARK REMOVED.

The following item is taken from the *Windom Reporter* of October 28, 1884: "One by one the old landmarks are being replaced by better and more substantial buildings. The old house on the corner of Third and Tenth streets, erected in 1871 by A. Huddleson and son, and occupied as a bakery and residence, was one of the first buildings in Windom and the one in which the first child was born in the village and named William Windom Huddleson. The building soon after completion was vacated by Mr. Huddleson, who removed to Wisconsin, and was occupied through the winter of 1871-

1872 by E. Clark. In the spring of 1872 the house and lot was bought by S. S. Johnson, who resided there for several years using the lower floor for flour, feed and pumps."

THE OLD "LOCK-UP."

In 1885 the village of Windom had a "lock-up," twelve by fourteen feet, built of two-by-four dimension stuff and painted on the outside. It contained two cells, seven by twelve feet, and two iron-barred windows, twelve by thirty inches, six feet from the floor. At that date it was very poorly kept, inhabited by many rats and mice and naturally very unsanitary. For a time it was used by both county and village, but subsequently it was condemned by the authorities.

WINDOM'S COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN 1916.

In the summer of 1916 the business and professional interests of the city of Windom were as follow:

Auto-garage—John Moore, Silliman Brothers, Frank Pope.

Attorneys—Wilson Borst, Newton L. Glover, P. S. Redding.

Banks—Farmers State, First National and Windom National banks.

Barber shops—Newell P. Freeman, H. C. Hamilton and Richard S. Reese.

Blacksmith shops—John Loken & Son, Smestad & Grotte and Ole S. Thompson.

Bakeries—J. M. Eibright and the Windom Bakery.

Clothing stores—Gustav Mueller and G. A. Peterson.

Cigar manufacturer—O. S. Skillingstad.

Creamery—Windom Creamery Company.

Creamery stations—J. E. Jenness and E. E. Berry & Son.

Confectioneries—John F. Hinkley, Nick Hules, Thomas Hules, Charles J. Koob.

Draftsman—William A. Peterson.

Druggists—Andrew A. Quevli, Frank Stedman.

Ditch contractors—Samogge & Redding.

Dray lines—William Belton, W. E. Bates.

Dentists—John A. Adamson, Henry Beise and C. H. Vroman.

Elevators—Co-operative Elevator Company, St. John's Elevator Company and G. W. Gillam.

Furniture dealers—James A. Crane, E. E. Berry & Son.

Feed store—John Loken.

Feed Barns—Thomas Chatham, Miller Brothers.

Fuel dealers—Walter J. Johnson, Ole Grotte and the lumber companies

Grocers—J. M. Ebright & Son, Headley & Miller.

General contractors—Christopherson & Westgard, Carl Peterson.

General dealers—Michael L. Fisch, Foss Mercantile Company, A. Quevli & Co.

Hotels—The Park, Commercial.

Harness shops—James Devlin and A. D. Nelson.

Hardware dealers—Earl Marshall & Son, C. Nelson & Co., Albert Wynne.

Implement dealers—Jens Anderson, Ole Elvrum.

Ice dealer—Yerkee Brothers.

Jewelers—Arthur B. Cone, Charles W. Lowery.

Lumber dealers—Grosjean & Lampert Lumber Company, Struck-Sherwin Lumber Company, and the Tuthill Lumber Company.

Liveries (horse)—L. T. Chatham, J. C. Church.

Mill—Richard Collins.

Music store—Edward E. Gillam.

Moving picture show—"The Wonderland."

Milliners—T. Kittleson, Mrs. Josephine Lowery.

Meat markets—M. S. Potter, Wieks & Burrill.

Merchant tailors—Nels Anderson, John Hoffman.

Newspapers—The *Cottonwood County Citizen*, The *Windom Reporter*.

Notions—Orris M. Garrett, Windom Variety Store, S. L. Rogers.

Physicians—Dr. William T. DeCoater, Dr. Joseph H. Dudley, Dr. Ludwig Sogge, Dr. Frank R. Weiser, Dr. F. C. Griffith, Doctor Tegland.

Photographer—Jesse O. Thompson.

Produce dealers—John F. Jenness, Windom Produce Company, J. F. Reide.

Restaurants—Minute Cafe, Frank R. Shaub, J. G. Hinkley.

Real estate dealers—Kettlewell & Jeffers, Silliman Brothers Land Company, Ringkob-Peterson, Sanger Land Company, Marshall Land Company, Benjamin A. Cone, Andrew Cowan, George F. Robison, Robinson & Potter, J. T. Johnson Land Company.

Shoe store—Ed. Larson.

Stock buyers—Gus Swanholm, Miller Brothers, M. T. DeWolf.

Tile works—W. P. Cowan.

Telephones—Windom Mutual, Northwestern.

Veterinaries—F. E. Judd, John Tyas.

COMMERCIAL CLUBS.

In February, 1908, there was formed in Windom a Commercial Club, with officers as follow: President, W. F. Savage; vice-president, C. W. Gillam; secretary, F. G. Dunnichiff; treasurer, John T. Johnson; directors, W. J. Clark, T. C. Collins, M. L. Fisch. Rooms were kept open over the First National Bank until that structure was burned. The membership fee was thirty dollars.

The present Commercial Club was organized on March 4, 1914. All phases of business were represented at the meeting, which was held at the court house. It started out with seventy members. The first officers were: President, C. W. Gillam; vice-president, J. O. Thompson; secretary, L. S. Churchill; treasurer, M. L. Fisch. The club has already secured many advantages for the city of Windom. The present month—August, 1916—it has secured a great band tournament, representing bands from St. James, Currie, Heron Lake and other neighboring towns, six in all.

THE TOURIST CLUB.

The Tourist Club was organized in October, 1896, with Mrs. T. C. Collins as president; Mrs. Wellington, vice-president; Mrs. C. A. Greene, secretary; Mrs. Force, treasurer. The club derived its name from the fact that the club members took up the study of things beyond their own immediate realm for the purpose of self-improvement. The membership is limited to twenty-five. The club carries an associate membership, members of which are taken from the active list. To become an honorary member one must have been an active member for a period of five years. At present there are eleven associate members and four honorary members. The club meets every Monday evening. For the coming year the club begins the study of the "Romance Cities of America" and "Problems of the Day."

The officers for the coming year are as follows, among whom are Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Greene, who are holding the same offices as at the time of organization: President, Mrs. T. C. Collins; first vice-president, Mrs. George Robison; second vice-president, Mrs. Gillis; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Harriet Hunter; recording secretary, Mrs. Greene; treasurer, Mrs. Strunk; critic, Mrs. Chestnut; assistant critic, Mrs. Emor Smestad.

WOMAN'S LITERARY CLUB.

The Woman's Literary Club of Windom was organized on June 27, 1903, with Mrs. C. W. Gillam as president. The club has studied the works and literature of many of the best writers, including Shakespeare, Marlowe and many others. But the efforts of the club are not confined wholly to the study of classic art and literature, but also home problems and home economics.

The officers elected for the year 1916 are as follow: Mrs. Carpenter, president; Mrs. J. T. Johnson, vice-president; Mrs. Scurr, recording secretary; Mrs. A. D. Perkins, corresponding secretary; Marie Quevli, treasurer; Mrs. A. D. Perkins, chairman of program committee. The Mayview course of study has been selected for the coming year's work.

WINDOM PIONEERS.

The following is a list of the pioneers who helped to lay well the foundation stones of the sprightly little city of Windom: W. A. Smith, George F. Robison, William Besser, George Miller, O. Elvrum, D. C. Davis, C. A. Lowe, C. H. Rupke, H. A. Cone, John Hutton, E. Gillam, James Dolan, Frank Stedman, W. B. Williams, George E. LeTourman, C. W. Gillam, L. J. Robinson, J. F. French, Charles B. Pierce, R. H. Reese, W. A. Cook, E. L. Leonard, M. T. De Wolf, E. C. Huntington, T. C. Collins, H. M. Clark, E. Sevaton, R. R. Jenness, Will Gillam, S. S. Gillam, J. N. McGregor, H. Bosworth.

WINDOM'S GREATEST FIRE.

A fifty-thousand-dollar fire visited Windom in July, 1900. It commenced about noon, with a high northwest wind. There was but little water in the tank and the hose owned by the town was rotten and soon found to be useless. Not an ax nor any implement for fire-fighting was to be found for the use of the firemen. It was believed the fire had its origin in the old Mason barn hay-loft, back of the Quevli store. When it was known that the fire laddies could do nothing, St. James and Heron Lake were appealed to for aid. The railroad gave special trains to bring the fire companies from these places. In a short time men and hose came from St. James and in less than thirty minutes from the time of call, the Heron Lake fire company was landed in Windom. Dick Gage, the engineer that hurled the company up from Heron Lake, made the run in an incredibly short time. On

authority, never disputed, he made the twelve-mile run in twelve minutes and unloaded his freight at the Windom depot. The St. James company made their run in thirty-one minutes, including a stop at Bingham Lake. After the water supply was found giving out, the Heron Lake engine run to the Des Moines river, but it was found they could not force the water up that far, so when the Luverne company arrived a line of hose was established between the wagon bridge and town, but again it was found that the engines were not making steam sufficient. Then a steam threshing engine belonging to Matt Miller was fired and run to the scene and greatly aided the other engines in pumping water sufficient to check the flames somewhat. Coal ran out and a special was sent to Heron Lake for a supply from the railroad yards. A passenger train brought a hundred laboring railroaders from Bingham Lake, and more were tendered if needed. These were stationed all over the southeast part of Windom with pails of water ready to quench any fire that might be set from flying cinders, etc. As a matter of fact, had the home fire company been encouraged and the supply of water, so near at hand, been looked after before the day of fire, nearly all this heavy loss might have been saved Windom. The thanks of the people of the place to the kindness of the railroad company, the fire companies at St. James, Heron Lake and Luverne, are even to this late day being expressed by the citizens of the place.

A. Quevli was the heaviest loser, \$17,000; he had \$2,000 insurance. Thurston Bros. had \$8,000 insurance and estimated their stock at \$16,000. M. D. Gates had on stock about \$1,500 insurance and, all told, lost about \$5,000. Johnson & Foss had \$800 insurance and lost about as much more. Fish Brothers had an insurance of \$2,500, and saved most of their stock. A. Opperud lost the building in which Arthur Cone was doing business; this was worth about \$2,000. O. Nason had \$1,500 insurance and lost \$2,000. Ole Erickson had some loss in his restaurant. Dr. Moen lost his library and many valuable surgical instruments, at a loss of \$2,000. George F. Robison, L. J. Robinson and Dr. De Coater, all occupants of the Robison & Robinson building, lost about \$2,000. The above named losses only include the business places and there was, besides these losses, several small buildings and barns, easily totalling a thousand dollars more.

OTHER CONFLAGRATIONS.

On March 1, 1885, a fire destroyed the store of R. R. Jenness, occupied by N. Freeman as a general store. Loss, \$8,000; insured for part of the amount.

On February 1, 1910, the First National Bank building, with most of its contents, was destroyed by fire, which originated in the basement. The first floor was occupied by the bank and the large store of M. L. Fisch. Mr. Fisch was the heaviest loser, with a loss of \$25,000; insured for \$15,000. The bank lost \$16,000 on building and \$3,500 on fixtures; insured for \$10,000.

In November, 1910, another fire burned the Farmers' Elevator, built in 1885, at a cost of \$5,000, and owned by E. Sevaton. It was insured for \$4,000. Four thousand bushels of wheat was lost.

CHAPTER XVIII.

REMINISCENCES.

PIONEER DAYS IN GREAT BEND—BLIZZARD OF 1873.

By W. A. Peterson.

During the summer of 1872 the officers of school district of Great Bend township, erected a school house at the southeast corner of section 6, the second school house built in the county. It was a wooden building constructed of pine lumber, quite a pretentious one for those early days; the frame, boards or "sheeting" had been nailed; over this was a covering of building paper and over that the half inch siding; the roof had been sheeted, papered and shingled, and there they had stopped for want of funds to purchase more material and the building was not finished on the inside at all. Shutters had been constructed of pine flooring, but had not yet been hung on the windows, but were artistically piled in one corner of the room. The school house was calculated to be located in the geographical center of the "district" and was, consequently, as is often the case, just a mile from everybody.

During the long and memorable winter of 1872-3, the school was being taught by John E. Teed, one of the young homesteaders and pioneers of the "far west." The school consisted of about twenty scholars of all ages, from the five-year-old—just mastering the intricacies of A, B, C,—to young men and women of sixteen to eighteen years of age. They had no patent individual desks and seats fastened to the floor, no elegant blackboard, smooth as glass, all around the four walls of the room; no steam or furnace heat; no elegant and comfortable lavatories, nor in fact any of the modern improvements and conveniences of even the country school houses of nowadays.

The young seekers after knowledge of that generation of a half century ago had to be, and were, content with the plain pine benches and desks; a very small wood-burning stove in the center of the room, around which they huddled on a cold day, burning one side and freezing the other at the same time. They had to walk at least a mile in the keen, biting cold and through

the deep snow to attend school, yet there were very few cases of tardiness or absence that winter when the weather was so that the youngsters could get out at all, and there was no ironclad rule compelling pupils to return home and lose a half day in case they were a few minutes late, to act as an incentive to make them prompt.

They were away out upon the wild prairies of the frontier and some of them were well aware that they were getting to an age where if they did not improve the opportunity their education would most likely stop short. They were very glad of an opportunity to attend a school that, primitive as the accommodations were, was as far ahead of the opportunities enjoyed by most parents in their youth, as their school house was behind the modern school building, with all its paraphernalia, and many of the middle aged men and women of today "graduated" from just such a school as is above described, that were among the boy and girl pioneers of the great West.

The morning of January 7, 1873, was a wild, warm, damp, foggy morning; such a mist hung over the prairie that it was almost a rain. They started for school that morning without any cold weather wraps; there was but one overcoat in the house that day; and that belonged to the teacher, who had brought it from necessity rather than choice, because he was "boarding around" and intended going to a new place that night.

The pupils assembled at the school house as merry and thoughtless as any children, who, if they only knew it, are then spending the happiest hours of their lives, and went through the usual routine of the morning lessons and recitations. The lunch pails were emptied at noon and they were playing some games in the west end of the room, when a commotion was noted about the door, and that three or four children were apparently hastily preparing to go away. On inquiry it was found that Mr. D. W. Working had come with his team and was hurriedly urging his children to get ready to go home.

"What is the matter, Mr. Working?" someone asked.

"We are going to have a bad storm and I am going to get my children home as soon as possible," was his reply, as he hustled them into the sled and drove rapidly away.

Mr. W. had hardly got away from the school house door when there came from the northwest such a gale of wind as none had ever beheld before, and I'll take my oath they never want to see it again.

It struck the building with a rush and roar, with such violence that it rocked, shook and trembled like a distressed ship in a hurricane, and seemed as though determined to wrench it from its foundation, rend the slender frame

asunder and hurl the building with its living human freight into eternity. The air was completely filled with fine, drifting, whirling particles of snow, as fine as the minutest particles of sand in a Sahara desert sand storm, rendering it impossible to see a foot toward the storm, and only a few feet in any direction. Those who have ever witnessed a northwestern blizzard can form no idea of it, and it is not to be wondered that they regard the description given by the westerners of such storms as exaggerations, as "fish stories," but any old plainsman will sustain the statement that they cannot be exaggerated; that the half of the truth has not, and never will, be told regarding them.

The storm began about half past twelve o'clock Tuesday afternoon, and lasted without cessation until Thursday night at midnight. Oh, how that terrible wind did shriek and howl, whistle, and roar, all day and night Wednesday and all day and half the night Thursday, like the unchained demons of the bottomless pit turned loose, howling in insane demonical rage upon the bleak prairie, and at last moaning itself to sleep—its fury spent—as though singing a sad requiem for the victims of the elements whose bodies lay stark and stiff at intervals over the plain, frozen to death.

The scholars huddled together, seemingly stupefied by the giant power of the fearful element raging without; gazing speechless with terror into the blanched faces of their companions, whose bloodless lips and wild eyes told of the thoughts of the older ones, inspired by the perilous predicament they were in. The wind was screeching and screaming around the building, which creaked and groaned like a living thing, searching out every little crack, nail or knot hole, and sifting the fine particles of snow into the room; on one pane of glass, in the northwest window, near the center of the pane, a bunch of snow formed in a fantastic wreath, forced through a hole made by some flaw in the glass, so tiny that it could not be detected with the naked eye.

The diminutive stove had never been large enough to furnish sufficient heat for that great shell of a room even in fair and comparatively warm weather, and as night approached the room began to grow cold and green willow wood, the largest of the sticks being as small as a man's forearm, and now it was discovered that there was but a quarter of a cord left; not near enough to last through the night, even of that miserable fuel. There was nothing within a mile of the school house, and the situation was indeed perilous; it was fully realized by the teacher and the older scholars. As night approached and it became colder it also became more lonesome and dreary. They took the shutters and placed them on a couple of benches as near the stove as possible, without setting fire to them; placed all the coats,

shawls and wraps that were available on them, and made a bed in which were placed the ten or dozen little children, who, childlike, soon forgot their homesickness and fright in the blessed balm of the sweet sleep of childhood.

The older ones employed every means that fertile minds could suggest to keep sluggish blood in motion and bodies warm, and also to keep their minds diverted from the gloomy contemplation of the peril. They were huddled together around that wretched little stove and sung songs and told stories by the twilight of the fire shining through the open front door of the stove. This was all the light, but by its uncertain flicker I thought I discovered some of the boys and girls sitting so close together that I suspected that the boys were gallantly trying to keep the girls warm, and cheer and support them by putting their arms around them.

The long, dismal night passed away at last, and with the coming of daylight came renewed action; the youngsters yawned, stretched and awoke, gazing stupidly around the room at first, trying to recall where they were. Ellison D. Moers, who was the oldest and largest boy in school, announced his intention of trying to go to the house of Dr. R. N. Sackett, which stood just about a mile to the northwest of the school house, and right in the teeth of the gale, to get some relief for the now half famished little ones. It was a hazardous undertaking; one requiring a clear head, a steady nerve, and physical endurance, but as Ellison possessed these requisites and was determined to go, he was bundled up in all the wraps they had, accompanied him to the door and bid him good-bye and God-speed, doubting if he would ever be seen alive again.

They whiled away the long, lonesome, tedious hours until some time about noon, when they heard a pounding at the door, and upon opening, two "tosed" snow images tumbled into the room. They were so bundled up and covered with snow that it was not known who they were at first, but soon found that they were the schoolmate returned, accompanied by the doctor.

They had brought a plentiful supply of food, a bottle of strong tea and a sharp ax. They fell ravenously upon that grub and slaked their thirst with the strong tea. After resting and warming the doctor decided to go back home and try to get his team to the school house and take the stormbound scholars over to his house; and so he set out, facing the terrific wind, accompanied by the teacher, and about four o'clock p. m., they returned with the team and packed the little ones in the bottom of the sleigh box and covered them up "head and ears" with the blankets and robes. Ellison D. Mooers and the teacher did not go, but went to Ellison's home, which was something

over a mile southeast of the school house, and as they went with the gale they did not have serious trouble in reaching the house.

I then lived about a mile and a quarter to the southwest of the school house and thought I could go home all right, but the teacher and the doctor refused to let me try it, and so I went with the other scholars to the doctor's house. Harvey Thompson and myself, being the two eldest boys in the party, had curled down in the rear end of the sled box to keep out of the drifting snow and cutting sleet as much as possible, as we were both very lightly clothed for braving such a blizzard.

We had gone but a few rods when the team was stopped and the doctor, turning to us, said in a frightful tone: "My God, boys, I've lost the track." Imagine, if you can, the feeling that came over us at this information. Dropping ice down your back on a warm day is luxury compared to it. We made the doctor promise to keep just where he was and we got out and went down on our knees on either side of the sled, calling to each other incessantly, so as not to lose each other or the sled, for we could not see two feet from our faces, and by so doing one of us found the track and got the team into it. From that time on Harvey and myself kept our faces out over the side of the sled and within eighteen inches of the ground, watching that faint track as intensely as a cat would watch a mouse. The team left it several times before we finally reached the house, but one of us would immediately call in the wind.

We got to the house and as soon as Mrs. Sacket could get a warm meal—the first we had since Tuesday morning—we all went to bed, "three in the bed and two in the middle," and made up for the sleeplessness of the night before. On Thursday morning the wind was blowing a severe gale, but it had stopped snowing and as the doctor had to make a professional visit, we started out at about ten o'clock a. m. and I got home all right. Just as we left the school house I went back to the blackboard and scribbled a message on it, telling anyone who might come to the school house what had become of the pupils.

Such an emergency always called out heroes and shows the stuff men are made of. This was no exception to the rule. In addition to the perilous and heroic journeys of Ellison D. Mooers, Dr. R. N. Sackett and John E. Teed, one more that was entirely disinterested and was the spontaneous act of a true man with a heart as big as an ox, who could not rest while he knew that human beings and especially children, were in peril, deserves more than passing mention.

Orrin Nason, familiarly known to many as "Tip," lived just about a

mile directly west of the school house. My brother and Tip had been caught in Windom on Tuesday afternoon when the storm began, and as my brother's wife lay almost at the point of death they knew that they must go home if possible. They succeeded after a perilous journey that nearly cost them their lives, and Tip had been up to my house and found that I had not got home. He, of course, at once surmised that the school children were storm-bound in the school house and had nothing to eat. This troubled his big heart so much that he had his good wife pack a pail of provisions and he started out and brought it to the school house, arriving there just about half an hour after we had gone. He had not a chick nor a child in the world; no one in school nearer than his nephew, yet he risked his life and braved that awful storm to get relief to us, when a dozen fathers, having children in the school, did not dare to try to get them.

CHAPTER XIX.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS AND INCIDENTS.

IMMIGRATION ASSOCIATION.

The Cottonwood County Immigration Society was formed in Windom in May, 1882, with John Clark as president and the following men as vice-presidents, chosen according to townships: Lakeside, S. O. Taggart; Mountain Lake, John Janzen; Selma, H. M. Goss; Delton, C. S. Narmoer; Carson, Fred Carpenter; Great Bend, C. Warren; Dale, J. Cutler; Aniboy, Wilbur Potter; Germantown, Chris Brand; Highwater, Geo. Quale; Sorden, Chas. Reipka; Amo, Corlis Mead; Springfield, T. S. Brown; Southbrook, W. H. Jones; Rose Hill, Henry Trantfether; Ann, C. H. Anderson; secretary, E. C. Huntington; treasurer, J. N. McGregor; executive committee: A. D. Perkins, J. S. Redding, John Hutton, E. C. Huntington, Paul Seeger, S. M. Espy and A. Quevli. The object of the association was the dissemination and accumulation of information concerning Cottonwood county, its climate, its resources, its prospects, and the promotion of its settlement.

It was the duty of the vice-presidents to collect information and facts relating to the character and resources of townships represented by them; also to furnish the same to the executive committee and to co-operate with the officers of the association in securing a judicious distribution of such publications as may be issued by the organization and to perform such duties as may be assigned them by the president. The membership fee was one dollar.

POPULATION STATISTICS.

The various census reports of this county show the following facts: In 1860 the county contained only twelve people—six men and six women; in 1870 it had increased to 534; in 1875 to 2,870; in 1880 it had reached 5,553; in 1885 it was 5,894; in 1890 it was 7,412; in 1900 it was 12,069; in 1910 it was 12,651.

POPULATION IN 1895 BY PRECINCTS.

Amboy -----	343	Mountain Lake -----	612
Amo -----	296	Mountain Lake Village-----	595
Ann -----	402	Rose Hill -----	480
Carson -----	655	Selma -----	405
Dale -----	367	Southbrook -----	318
Delton -----	350	Springfield -----	351
Germantown -----	488	Storden -----	439
Great Bend -----	320	Westbrook -----	599
Highwater -----	569	Windom Village -----	1,523
Lakeside -----	547		
Midway -----	528	Total -----	10,187

CENSUS OF 1900 AND 1910.

	1910	1900		1910	1900
Amboy -----	437	489	Midway -----	658	607
Amo -----	395	358	Mountain Lake -----	512	561
Ann -----	433	500	Mountain Lake Vil-		
Bingham Lake Vil-			lage -----	1,081	959
lage -----	285	311	Rose Hill -----	510	535
Carson -----	672	623	Selma -----	530	427
Dale -----	483	455	Southbrook -----	303	350
Delton -----	371	360	Springfield -----	332	361
Germantown -----	522	512	Storden -----	659	548
Great Bend -----	444	435	Westbrook -----	579	688
Highwater -----	591	627	Westbrook Village--	429	---
Jeffers Village-----	227	---	Windom Village---	1,749	1,944
Lakeside -----	449	392			
-----			Total -----	12,651	12,069

NATIONALITY OF POPULATION.

According to the United States census in 1910 the following nationalities were here represented: 9,787 were native-born Americans; Germans, 624; Swedes, 185; Norwegians, 723; English and Irish, 61; Danish, 207; Austrians, 112; Russians, 821; other countries, 131.

VILLAGE PLATS.

The following are the village plats of Cottonwood county:

Bingham Lake, situated in section 9, township 105, range 35, west, was platted by the officers of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company, July 28, 1875.

Deloit, in the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the southwest quarter of section 18, township 106, range 35, was platted by the Inter-State Land Company, June 18, 1902.

Jeffers was platted by the Inter-State Land Company, September 19, 1899, in section 20, township 107, range 36, west.

Mountain Lake was platted by the officers of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company, May 25, 1872, in section 33, township 106, range 34, west.

Westbrook was platted by the Inter-State Land Company, June 8, 1900, in section 29, township 107, range 38.

Windom was platted by the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company, May 25, 1872, in the southwest quarter of section 25, and parts of sections 26 and 36, township 105, range 36 west. The president of the company was then Elias Drake.

Storden was platted by the Inter-State Land Company, July 8, 1903, comprising all of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 29, township 107, range 37 west.

PLATTED CEMETERIES.

Besides several private or family burying grounds in this county, there are the following public cemeteries:

Amo cemetery, platted March 2, 1899, in the northeast corner of section 21, township 106, range 37, west. This was platted by the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church of the township.

Delton cemetery, in the north half of the southeast quarter of section 22, township 107, range 35, west; filed on November 11, 1886.

Windom cemetery, platted by the Windom Cemetery Association, by W. B. Cook, president, E. L. Leonard, treasurer, July 20, 1890. This is situated on a part of the south half of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 25, township 105, range 36, west.

St. Francis cemetery, platted, February 4, 1901, in the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 36, township 105, range 36.

Carson church and cemetery grounds, platted on December 8, 1900, by

the trustees of the Mennonite church, in section 15, township 106, range 35, west.

Mountain Lake cemetery was platted by the Mountain Lake Cemetery Association, David Ewert, president; John Janzen, secretary, and Henry P. Goertz, treasurer, March 18, 1893, in section 33, township 106, range 34, west.

Westbrook cemetery was platted in the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 29, township 107, range 38, west, by the village authorities of Westbrook, February 19, 1913.

ALTITUDES.

According to the government surveys made several years since, the altitude above the sea at Windom was thirteen hundred and thirty-four feet and at Heron Lake it is fourteen hundred and six feet.

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

In 1872 these prices obtained in Cottonwood county: Wheat, 90 cents; flour, per hundred weight, \$3.10; eggs, 12 cents per dozen; butter, per pound, 10 cents; corn, per bushel, 40 cents; oats, 20 cents; hay (wild), \$5.00 per ton.

In 1880 the prices ranged as follows: Wheat, 90 cents; flour, \$3.00; oats, 20 cents; corn, 20 cents; barley, 25 cents; potatoes, 25 cents; butter, 12 cents; eggs, 16 cents; fresh pork, per hundred, \$3.50.

In 1890 these prices are found in the *Windom Reporter*: Wheat, 75 cents; oats, 29 cents; butter, 10 cents; eggs, 14 cents.

In the month of August, 1916, the following prices obtained in this locality and at Mankato: Wheat, \$1.50; corn, 86 cents; oats, 43 cents; hogs, \$9.63; cattle, top prices, \$10.95; eggs, 21 cents; heavy hens, 14 cents a pound; potatoes, \$1.00; dairy butter, 30 cents a pound; hand separated butter, 33 cents per pound; creamery butter, 35 cents per pound.

GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

In 1873 all of southwestern Minnesota came under the devastating influences of the grasshoppers, which continued until 1878. In the way of relief to the destitute settlers may be mentioned the following:

Gen. J. W. Bishop, general manager of the Sioux City Railroad, issued an order donating all the timber owned by the road situated more than a mile from the track to destitute settlers. Besides, the eastern stockholders donated the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars each to those whose only dependence was in the hands of charity.

The state Legislature passed a seed wheat bill, to aid destitute settlers on the frontier, the substance of which is given as follows: "Section 1. That the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby appropriated out of any money in the state treasury, belonging to the general revenue funds, not otherwise appropriated, for the relief of destitute settlers on the frontier counties of the state, for the purchase of grain.

"Section 2. Provided, that no more than thirty dollars shall be paid to one family."

As a result of the above bill, Cottonwood county received about four thousand five hundred bushels of grain, which cost one dollar and eight cents a bushel.

In February, 1874, many of the settlers held a meeting for the purpose of asking an extension of time for the payment of personal taxes. The state came to their aid and passed a bill extending the time until the following November, provided no taxes were in arrears.

GRASSHOPPER CONVENTION.

In May, 1874, a grasshopper convention was held in Windom, about two hundred attending. A general opinion prevailed that the destruction of crops for the year was inevitable and that aid was necessary. The convention passed a resolution requesting Governor Davis to appoint ex-Governor Miller as a commissioner to go to Washington and lay facts before Congress and ask relief. A motion also prevailed to grant settlers the right to leave their claims until the grasshopper raid was over and they were able to procure the necessary seed for another year. A committee of one from each county afflicted was appointed to canvass their respective counties and ascertain the amount of relief necessary and report to the governor at once.

In July, 1874, the county auditor received returns from the townships showing the per cent of grain destroyed.

	Wheat.	Oats.	Corn.	Flax.
Amboy -----	75	65	25	100
Southbrook -----	95	60	70	100
Springfield -----	100	100	75	95
Germantown -----	90	100	55	---
Carson -----	80	75	55	60
Amo -----	85	80	60	65
Ann -----	60	55	65	100
Clinton -----	90	70	43	100

STORM OF 1873.

On January 7, 1873, in that terrible storm mentioned elsewhere in this volume, William Norris lost his life in Springfield township within eighty rods of his own house. The farm is now owned by George Morley, in section 30. About half of the men were in Windom that day trading and of course stayed all night there. This was the same storm Mr. Peterson writes about when the scholars all had to remain in the Big Bend school house for nearly two days.

THE CYCLONE OF 1903.

The first severe cyclone to visit these parts after the county's settlement was the one which devastated things in general early in June, 1903. Eight persons were killed, as follow: Daniel Galligher and two daughters, Mrs. Joe Fritcher and baby, a daughter of Mrs. Joe Fritcher, the father of Mr. Fritcher and Joseph Mathias. Aside from two sons this wiped out the Galligher family of this county.

The local papers said (Windom, July 1, 1903): "Leaving death and destruction in its pathway, a cyclone passed over this county four miles south of this city last evening. It was about seven o'clock when the storm was at its worst. Many houses, barns and outbuildings were torn asunder and in one of the houses three people were killed. The house of Daniel Galligher stood on the edge of an embankment overlooking String lake. The storm swept the building into the lake, killing Mr. Galligher and his two grown-up daughters. At a late hour this morning but one of the bodies—that of one of the two daughters—has been found. Her clothing was entirely torn away, the bones of the body were broken and she presented an awful appearance. Mr. Galligher's granary was blown away; his horses and cattle all killed and a vast amount of other damage done on the premises. The daughters of Mr. Galligher, Nettie and Ella, were well known in Windom.

"In Windom a fearful gale blew, but no damage resulted further than trees being torn up by the roots and signs dislocated."

On the Crowell farm a piece of a fork was found driven through the trunk of a tree. Spears of straw and hay were literally driven through the bark of growing trees. On E. H. Klock's farm a most wonderful thing occurred and which no one can account for. Within a grove and near his house stood a farm wagon with a heavy box hay rack on it. There was a grove of willows and other artificial trees, many of which were thirty feet high. These at the point named stood on the highway and after the storm

had passed (Mr. Klock and family being in Windom at the time of the storm) the wagon was found headed as before, only it had been picked up and carried over these thirty-foot trees and set down in a direct line where it had stood in the yard the hour of the storm. The wagon and rack were not in the least broken and the tongue was pointed in the same direction as before, only out in the highway several rods from its former position and beyond these trees.

Just before the storm struck, all the cattle on D. U. Weld's farm seemed to divine what was coming and made a stampede for the stock barn.

It was flying timbers of the destroyed Hager school house that killed Joseph Mathias.

D. A. Noble was returning from his farm near Windom and saw the storm. Not knowing which way it was going, he halted a moment, watched its course and acted accordingly. He was near its edge and easily saw the storm cross the Des Moines river and on up a slope to where Dr. Silas Allen's old landmark, the red granary, stood. The latter was picked up and carried high in the air, when, all of a sudden it seemed to explode and disappeared in splinters; no piece was ever found of this building except a door to it.

CYCLONE OF 1908.

The presence of cellars probably saved many lives of Cottonwood county citizens on Monday evening, June 22, 1908, when a terrible cyclone swept through to the north and east of Windom. The loss of property amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the growing crops were practically uninjured.

The cyclone formed somewhere in the Des Moines river valley three or four miles from Windom, and first struck the home of Frank Shottle, on section 15, in Great Bend township, destroying his barn, killing several horses and other stock; then went nearly east to Paul Hooke's, where some small buildings were destroyed, but no serious damage done. From there the storm swept over section 14, striking the home of Ross Nichols, the Mrs. Warren farm, where the barn was completely destroyed and the prairie for half a mile or more strewn with the debris. The house was partially unshingled, and within about fifteen feet some large silver maples, nearly thirty years old, were uprooted, while south of the house other trees were destroyed, but the house, otherwise than as mentioned, was uninjured. The family saw the storm coming and started for the cellar, but the storm had passed. Just east of this place about ten yards, the storm encountered the telephone wires

of the Northwestern and the Tri-State and Windom Mutual, tearing up poles and entangling the wires badly. The telephone lines for forty or fifty rods were entirely destroyed.

The storm continued over section 15, striking the barn of John Carlson, moving it several feet from its foundation, and unroofed the house. Five horses in the barn were unhurt. Also in the Nichols barn were three horses and a few cattle and all escaped injury. Mr. Carlson was standing near the house when he first saw the storm approaching. He said that there were two funnel-shaped clouds that came together, one from the southeast and one from the northeast and that they united just west of Shottle's grove, sweeping down upon it with utter destruction. From here it proceeded to the east side of section 12, where it demolished the barn belonging to a lady in Iowa and badly damaged the house. Proceeding to the east, it struck the windmill of M. F. Frickie, doing slight injury, but on the northeast quarter of section 6, in Lakeside township, just north of the Frickie home, it struck the home of Jacob Fast, tearing off chimneys, blowing in windows of the house and destroying several buildings. This was the third cyclone to hit Mr. Fast in recent years, causing him great losses.

George Potter's barn, on the southwest quarter of section 5 in Lakeside township, was next hit and was completely destroyed. Isaac Foth's home was next in the path on the southwest quarter of section 32. Here peculiar freaks of the cyclone were noticed. It is customary for the Mennonites generally to build houses and barns in conjunction with each other and in this case Mr. Foth's house and barn cornered. The house was practically untouched while the barn was ruined. The beautiful grove was torn and twisted beyond recognition, great trees being uprooted, while others were peeled and twisted off at different distances from the ground. Isaac Foth said that when the storm struck him, there were two funnel shaped clouds in sight, one of which struck his house and the other he thought struck the Fast and Peter places, from which it would seem that the two cyclones which united at the Shottle place, separated between Carlson's and Foth's.

The next place in the path of destruction was that of A. L. Thompson, in Carson township, where the barn was moved. The barn contained five horses, none of which were injured. The machine shed and several out-buildings were destroyed and the grove twisted, uprooted and denuded of all foliage.

Continuing northward from the home of Mr. Thompson, the dwelling of Henry Loewen was completely wiped off the earth and nothing but a hole remained, together with some debris, to mark the spot. This was on the

northeast half of section 33, Carson township. On the section south and eighty rods distant was the home of A. J. Wiebe, one of the most prosperous and wealthy of the Mennonite farmers, and the scene of the most terrible desolation. His grove was planted in 1868 by George Robinson and was one of the first planted on the prairies of Cottonwood county. The place was one of the most delightful in this part of Minnesota, embracing a splendid orchard and excellent buildings, all of which except a small part of the house were completely destroyed. One horse was killed and two buried in the debris of the barn, but taken out alive. On the prairie east of the house several cattle were killed. Here trees forty years old were uprooted, broken off and twisted into all shapes and the grove practically ruined. The farm was hedged with long rows of willows and these were twisted into an almost solid mass and interwoven with wire fencing. No one was at home except the children, who sought safety in the cellar, but they were so frightened that they were unable to give any definite account of what happened. When asked how long the storm lasted one replied, "long time," but in reality it was not longer than one minute. Mr. Wiebe's buildings were all new and modern. But after the storm had passed nothing remained except a few jars of fruit in the cellar and a yard covered with boards and building material. It was here that they were trying to get into the cellar. All but John Eitzen, a man of about seventy years, succeeded. He, together with a horse, was carried a quarter of a mile and dropped in a slough, where he was afterwards found, the old gentleman being somewhat dazed but otherwise uninjured. The slough was covered with debris from the ruins, while the prairie all the way to the pond was covered with kindling wood. On the northeast quarter of the same section were the homes of Henry and Peter Wiems. Henry's barn was completely destroyed, with a number of cattle, while the house escaped injury. Peter's home was a few rods east of the barn and outbuildings, which were completely destroyed, while the house was somewhat damaged. Two steel water tanks were carried away and no trace of them ever found. A team of horses was carried one half a mile and dropped and when found were grazing as if nothing of importance had happened.

The storm then jumped about two miles northeast and struck the home of Klaas Boltd, killing a horse and destroying all the buildings. On the northeast quarter of section 23 in Carson township, George Klaasin lost all of his buildings except the house, those destroyed including barns, granary and a number of small structures, such as machine sheds, etc. His stock were scattered over the prairie east of the buildings, three cows and one horse being among the dead.

P. C. Klarsen lived in section 17 of the same township. He lost all of his belongings, valued at from five to ten thousand dollars. He was not at home at the time, but his wife tried to save her children by going into the cellar. They were caught in the wreck and all barely escaped with their lives, except one child, who was killed.

David Hamm, on section 18, Midway township, lost all of his buildings. Jacob Qurring, a near neighbor, lost his home as well as a large amount of stock. The family sought safety in the cellar, in which there was about a foot of water. When the house left the foundation the suction was so great as to drench the people in the cellar by drawing water up and over them. This seems to have been the end of the storm, which was followed by a heavy rain. Jacob Lipp was returning from Mountain Lake and was caught in the path of the cyclone in the neighborhood of Qurrings, being badly injured by a wagon and hen coop being blown against him.

In the Qurring and Hamm pastures the stock presented a marred appearance. A two-by-four timber was pulled from one of Dick's horses, as was a stick which had penetrated the neck of a heifer three inches. Chickens were found stricken as clean as though prepared for the stew pot.

David C. Davis started the ball rolling for aid to the destitute, including the Henry Lavan family, who lost all they had by the fearful windstorm. They were renters living on an Iowa man's farm. Immediately a wagon load and more of provisions and clothes were collected and Mr. Davis took the same to the needy and destitute sufferers. Some gave money and others such provisions as they had handy. This was an act of kindness not soon to be forgotten.

SNOW STORM.

On February 2, 1881, snow began flying from the southeast and continued with increasing severity until the following Monday. The snow was accompanied by a strong wind and the thermometer registered sixteen to twenty-six degrees below zero. This storm was termed a "howl in the rear," as never before had the people experienced a blizzard from the southeast. Snow drifted into the railroad cuts and train service was suspended indefinitely. On Monday, the 10th, the railroad began work trying to clear the right of way. On the other handlike blizzard came on from the northwest, and continued until after the 16th. A crew of three hundred men were put to work on the road between Mountain Lake and Windom, but not until the 18th were trains able to go through.

A FATAL CASE

In April, 1881, a crew of men were working in the cut near Rushon Lake clearing the track of snow. The company had an engine and snow-plow near at hand to aid in the work when necessary. It seems that the engineer had orders to make a run in an attempt to get through the drift. Anyway, the men working in the cut were wholly unconscious of any danger until the engine was almost upon them and then it was too late to escape. L. Ludke was caught by the snow-plow and thrown quite a distance, breaking his neck and killing him instantly. August Barmerster was thrown under the tank and so wedged in the snow that it took nearly two hours to dig him out. Besides Barmerster, three other workmen were injured.

HAY BURNED

Many thousands of tons of prairie hay were burned annually by prairie fires for a number of years after the settlement of this country. In 1871 A. A. Gould lost forty tons of splendid hay and Mr. Peterson lost all he had stacked, also his grain and stabling. The fire was seen approaching the village of Mountain Lake, but timely work prevented it from getting into the place.

A FURIOUS BLIZZARD IN 1873

Rev. Frank Peterson, D. D., so well known in Minnesota in church work, located in the neighborhood of Worthington in the early seventies, and here is his account of the great 1873 blizzard, so frequently referred to by Iowa Minnesota pioneers. This storm was on January 7, 1873—forty-three years ago. Doctor Peterson says:

"The afternoon of that day was mild and clear. Many had taken advantage of this and had gone to neighbors visiting, or to town to do their trading, or possibly to the nearby lakes to fish. In the early afternoon, however, a sudden change was noticed in the atmosphere and in the day. All who were away hurried to get home, and hence nearly all were caught by the storm that swept over Minnesota, including Jackson and Cottonwood counties.

"A lightening roar was heard in the northwest and, looking, one could see a great white wall reaching from the clouds to the earth, coming at the rate of forty miles an hour. It was a blizzard, filling the air with frozen

snow and driving it forward with the fierceness of a gigantic sandblast. No man or beast can face it. One turns instinctively from it, and once turned and started there is no such thing as stopping. One is driven onward, while unmercifully whipped by the frozen snow until, in sheer exhaustion, the ill-fated traveler sinks into the drift. Tired out, he becomes drowsy, then a numbness sets in, and then a sleep from which there is no waking this side of the resurrection morn. About seventy people perished who were in the path of this never-to-be-forgotten storm.

"A friend of mine, Mr. Blixt, had gone out on the lake to fish. He had built a small shanty on the ice for protection. The storm coming on, he did not start for home, but very prudently remained within his shelter. His wife, however, had for some reason felt constrained to venture out. No sooner had she gotten out of the door before she was snatched by the grip of the storm and forced onward and onward until she had gone seven miles away from home, when her strength failed her and she sank down into her last sleep. She was not found until spring, when the drifts of snow began to drift away. Her hand was seen sticking out of the snow and her gold ring glittered in the bright moonlight. It was discovered later, by tracing her tracks, that she had passed the box where her husband sat a prisoner in the grip of the cruel storm.

"When her husband returned, two days afterward, he found the door of his home blown open and his little boy, three years old, standing in the bed, where he had been alone two days and nights. The little fellow had cried so that he could now scarcely sob. That boy is now a man, a prosperous farmer, but the traces of that terrible experience of two seemingly endless days and nights of loneliness, of fear, of cold and of suffering are left with him. His long crying brought on stuttering.

"In the same storm a mail carrier, going from Worthington to Indian Lake, was driven out of his course to Okaboji, Iowa, twenty-five miles away, where later his body was found.

"The lessons learned from such storms were many: Better protection for man and beast, a goodly supply of fuel and fodder near at hand, and guide ropes from the house to the stable so that one could pass safely between the two without losing their way.

"The winter had passed, though never to be forgotten. The smiling spring, with its green verdure and lovely wild flowers, had again come to give cheer and hope for a better future."

A FIVE-YEAR GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE.

The same minister who wrote the above on the 1873 blizzard also wrote graphically, as an eye witness, of the grasshopper days between 1873 and 1878, which years devastated all southern Minnesota and northwest Iowa. Dr. Peterson said:

"I had frequently read from Exodus, tenth chapter, the following: 'When it was morning the east wind brought the locusts, and the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested in all the coasts of Egypt. Very grievous were they; for they covered the face of the earth so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left; and there remained not any green thing in the trees or in the herbs of the field.' But I never expected to see anything like it myself. Those who were in southwestern Minnesota during the grasshopper years find no difficulty in believing the story of Moses. Their invasion of Egypt was but for a season, but with us they remained five years.

"I remember quite distinctly the morning in June, 1873, when the advance troop arrived. I had just started to go to Worthington and, crossing the cornfield, I was surprised at seeing what at first seemed snow fall. I looked up and saw millions of hoppers, with their outstretched wings, sailing down upon the field. As I stood and looked the air grew thicker. I returned to the house and asked my mother and sister, who were home, to come out and see what I jokingly called the 'snow-fall.' They were too astonished to speak. We could guess what this would mean. We went out to the cornfield, which only a few minutes ago looked so fine and gave promise of a good crop. It was now all bare. The succulent plants were eaten down to the ground. The garden had fared the same way. For a moment we stood dumb. The cloud of hoppers increased in density. They were now lighting down on the wheat field. We saw that the prospects of the year's crop had been snatched out of our hands in almost an hour. I looked at poor mother. She wiped away a tear with her apron, while she quoted the words of Job, 'The Lord gave; the Lord hath taken away.'

"This was but the beginning of a scourge which was to last five years. It was a blessing that we did not know what was ahead. Our hopes soon rose, and our courage was braced as we cheered ourselves with the thought that this was but for one year. We still had our stock and the hoppers had left the grass untouched. We soon discovered, however, that after they

had finished the destruction of the crops they were busy depositing their eggs. This boded no good for the coming year.

"The following summer proved that our suspicions were correct. When the ground became sufficiently warm, millions of little hoppers made their appearance, until the ground was literally alive with them. This army of home-bred hoppers received tremendous accessions from the mountain regions of the west until they not only covered the ground, but lay in places several inches deep, and as you walked along they would fly up and you would find yourself moving along in a deafening buzz of a continuous swarm. Trains were even stopped by them. They would lie upon the track so thick that, when crushed, the wheels could not grip the surface of the rails.

"Their voracity was quite remarkable. Garden stuff and the growing grain were their choicest diet, but they would not spurn such things as clothes, tool-handles, tobacco, etc. We soon learned to know that it was not safe to lay aside a garment in the field exposed to their attack, for in an incredibly short time it would be perforated with holes.

"A Mr. Attick had, incautiously, left his tobacco and pipe in the field, while at work, and on his return for a smoke found to his surprise that the hoppers had devoured his tobacco, but had been gracious enough to leave the paper pouch for him. In his disgust he said, 'We have now reached the limit; it is high time we leave; if the hoppers will not stop at tobacco there is no telling what they will devour next.'

"This state of things continued for five years. The settlers were driven to the last ditch. The governor of the state was concerned about the situation. He issued a proclamation setting aside April 26, 1877, as a day of prayer and fasting. Some scoffed, but many observed the day. The deliverance came the first week in June, when the grasshoppers arose in a body. The scourge was gone, let us hope never to return again."

BURNING HAY FOR FUEL.

The fuel question in those early grasshopper, poverty-stricken years in this section of the country was no small problem to solve. The use of wood and coal was out of the question. These were entirely beyond the reach of those living back from the small groves along the Des Moines river. At first, stalks of tall weeds that grew along the edges of the sloughs were gathered and used, but these did not last long. When the keen blasts of the prairie winter came out of the northwest, something more was needed.

"Necessity being the mother of invention," it was soon discovered that prairie hay could be burned in stoves, by taking a swab of it and twisting up in a stove-wood length and fastening its ends to securely hold the wad together until it was needed in the stove. Of course it was mussy and the housewife did not like it, as white ashes would puff out every time the stove lid was lifted to replenish the fire with more hay. This fuel also clogged up the stove-pipe and chimney, so that it would not "draw" and hence every few days the pipe had to be cleaned out, which in a cold winter day was anything but a pleasing task. But this was better than going cold, so many were forced to depend upon prairie hay for fuel in the heating of their claim shack or sod shanty.

DREADFUL RAILROAD WRECK AT WINDOM.

About the 20th of September, 1899, occurred a terrible wreck on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad, at the bridge crossing the Des Moines river, at the edge of the town, coming from the southwest. Towards midnight a rear-end collision took place on the railroad bridge. A train of thirty-five heavily loaded cars, drawn by two powerful engines, crashed into the rear of another freight train standing on the bridge. Four men were killed: Engineer Carl Rasmussen; fireman T. M. Roberts; fireman Hugh Stratton; John Roberts, merchant, St. James. Many more were seriously injured in the wreck.

It was the same old story of wrong and not plainly understood orders. One engine was standing on the bridge and could not get out, after seeing the heavy train coming from the west. A red light was put out over the track by the engineer on the bridge, but too late—the speed of the train was too great and the awful crash very soon came. The double-header collided with the engine on the steel bridge, which could not withstand such a shock and went down, the three engines and thirty cars going to the bottom and into the Des Moines river. The cars were loaded mostly with grain and the whole made a huge, unsightly pile, reaching nearly to the top of the bridge. The space was almost, if not quite, one hundred and fifty feet between the two north piers, this being the length of the span that went down; the other span of the railroad bridge remained in position.

To add to the horror of the midnight scene, the derailed, overturned locomotives set fire to the wreckage and it burned fiercely for a long time. Somewhere between eighteen and twenty-five thousand bushels of grain were wrecked, causing a loss to the company of sixty-five thousand dollars. The

damaged grain was sold by the company to a St. Paul man for four hundred and fifty dollars. The cars were smashed to fine kindling wood—the worst wreck ever seen by the superintendent, as he stated. It took days to clear away the wreckage. A huge derrick was sent from the Northwestern road at Baraboo, Wisconsin, its lifting power being fifty tons.

Who was guilty? Superintendent Spencer said "The accident was caused by the gross carelessness of Williams, who in backing onto the main line, disobeyed the first rule a conductor learns." At first Williams disappeared, but finally returned and went to his home in St. James. He was there arrested Friday following the wreck. He was placed on trial, at which County Attorney Annes and Wilson Borst appeared for the state and W. S. Hammond, of St. James, for Williams, who was acquitted.

MOUNTAIN LAKE WRECK.

On March 3, 1916, occurred a disastrous wreck at Mountain Lake, in which three were instantly killed and many injured. A special train, in which were a number of movables, was on the track. The engine was switching out a couple of cars for men who were to move on farms near Mountain Lake. The engine had just spotted the cars at the loading chute and was backing out to couple up the train, when the through train came on at a high rate of speed.

THE OLD OX TEAM.

A. B. Irving wrote the following song and it was recited or sung at one of the Old Settlers' Association meetings in Windom:

We're living today in a very fast age;
We go rushing along, to gain is the rage;
We hustle and hurry and draw things by steam,
All forgetting the days when we drove an ox team.

We live at high pressure and cut a great dash,
Swell up like bubble and burst with a crash,
Never thinking of turning and pulling up stream,
As we did in the days we had an ox team.

We labored together in the days of "Lang Syne";
We stood by each other, we cleared up the land;
We followed the ground, 'twas as new as cream,
We dragged in the bright seed with the ox team.

How often we heard it, "Buck," "Haw Buck" and "Bright,"
The ox team has vanished: it's auto and bike;
It's a forty-mile gait, by trolley or steam,
The day has passed by for the old ox team.

We're nearing the border land, o'er the way;
But memory will linger 'round the days passed away,
When sleep drops the curtain, in many a dream,
We're hallowing once more to the old ox team.



WATONWAN COUNTY COURT HOUSE, ST. JAMES.

WATONWAN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

CHAPTER I.

GEOLOGY OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

Situation and Area. Watonwan county lies in the southern part of Minnesota, bordering on Iowa. It is a little west of the central meridian of the state. St. James, the county seat, is situated southwest from St. Paul and Minneapolis, about one hundred and twenty miles. From the west line of this county to the line between Minnesota and Dakota is eighty miles. The county is a rectangle, extending twenty-four miles from east to west, and eighteen miles from north to south. The area of the county is 435.45 square miles, or 278,686.92 acres, of which about sixteen hundred acres are covered by water.

SURFACE FEATURES.

Natural Drainage. Watonwan county is wholly drained by the river of the same name, which empties into the Blue Earth river about three miles below Garden City in Blue Earth county. The north and south forks of the Watonwan river, having their sources in Cottonwood county, traverse respectively the northern and southwestern parts of Watonwan county, each receiving several tributary creeks, and are united in one stream two miles west of Madelia, and about twenty miles, following the course of the river, above its mouth. Antrim, the most southeast township of this county, is drained by Perch creek, which has its source a few miles farther south in Martin county, and flows northeast to the Watonwan river.

Among the original lakes of Watonwan county the following are worthy of mention: Emerson Lake, at the north side of Madelia, two miles long from east to west, and one and a half miles wide, with about half its area in Linden township, Brown county; this lake has been drained and used for farm purposes. Five or six smaller lakes in Madelia township within a few miles to the southeast from Emerson Lake; a dozen smaller lakes, probably

some of them dry in the summer season, lying in Fieldon and Antrim townships; three lakes in St. James, the largest a mile or more in length, close southwest of the town; Long Lake two and a half miles long from east to west and half a mile wide and Kansas Lake one and one-half east and west by one mile in width, in Long Lake township; four unnamed lakes in Odin township, the largest in sections 5 and 6 being about a mile long and a half mile wide, nearly gone now except in wet seasons, and Wood Lake in Antrim township, three and a half miles long and from a quarter to a half mile wide.

Topography. Watonwan county descends toward the east and north-east, but in a broad view its slightly undulating expanse seems nearly level. Generally its surface is in very gentle slopes, which soon conduct the surplus waters of rains and snow-melting into depressions, which merge into ravines and lead to small water-courses, and by them to the larger permanent streams. Here and there, however, are depressions which have no such free drainage, and contain sloughs or lakes.

In Watonwan county the south fork of the Watonwan river lies in a valley which it has cut forty feet below the general level along all its course from Mountain Lake to Madelia; and the north fork and its tributaries have similarly channeled their part of the drift-sheet. Below the junction of these branches the Watonwan valley increases to fifty or sixty feet in depth before leaving the county at the southeast corner of Madelia township.

Adrian, the most northwesterly township of Watonwan county, has the only outcrop of the bed-rock in the county, this being the eastern extremity of a prominent ridge of the red Potsdam quartzite. It is seen at the surface in the northwest quarter of section 20, and gives to this and the contiguous sections 30 and 19 an elevation of fifty to one hundred feet above the rest of the township; but this ridge here, and through its whole extent of nearly twenty-five miles westward, where it rises much higher, is mainly covered by a smooth sheet of till.

Elevations, taken from profiles in the office of T. P. Gere, superintendent of St. Paul & Sioux City division, Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway, are:

Madelia	1,021
Watonwan river, water	979
St. James	1,073
Butterfield	1,184

The highest land of Watonwan county is either the east part of the quartzite ridge in sections 10 and 30, Adrian township, or the southwest corner of the county, both of which are nearly thirteen hundred feet above the sea. Its lowest land is where the Watonwan river passes out from this into Blue Earth county, at a height of about nine hundred and sixty feet above the sea. The mean heights of the townships of this county are approximately as follow: Madelia, ten hundred and twenty-five feet above the sea; Fieldon, ten hundred and fifty; Antrim, eleven hundred feet; River Dale, ten hundred and forty; Rosendale, ten hundred and sixty; South Branch, eleven hundred and twenty; Nelson, ten hundred and seventy-five; St. James, eleven hundred and twenty; Long Lake, eleven hundred and fifty; Adrian, eleven hundred and fifty; Butterfield, twelve hundred; and Odin, twelve hundred and forty. From these estimates the mean elevation of Watonwan county is found to be eleven hundred and ten feet.

Soil and Timber. The soil of Watonwan county, like that of a vast region extending from them on all sides, is very fertile, easily worked, and well adapted for the cultivation of all the staple agricultural products of this latitude. A black, clayey, and slightly sandy and gravelly loam, from one to three feet thick, forms the surface, which is nearly everywhere sufficiently undulating to carry away the waters of heavy rains and snow-melting. Boulders are scattered very sparingly over the entire area of this county, but scarcely anywhere are objectionably numerous. This soil and the subsoil of yellowish gravelly clay are the till, or unmodified drift of the glacial period. They are somewhat porous on account of the considerable proportion of sand intermixed, causing them to absorb much moisture from rains and give it up readily to vegetation. The principal crop of Watonwan county, at first, generally northward through this state, was wheat, but corn, live stock, and dairying now predominate.

The county is principally prairie, being naturally grassland, without tree or shrub excepting narrow skirts of timber, which generally surround the lakes and extend along the principal streams, sometimes widening to form groves. Probably the aggregate area of these belts of timber is less than one hundredth part of the county. The following species of trees, arranged in their estimated order of abundance, were noted as occurring along the South Fork of the Watonwan river: American or white elm, white ash, box-elder, ironwood, cottonwood, bur-oak, slippery or red elm, hackberry, bass, soft maple, black walnut, willows, the American aspen, or poplar, and the wild plum.

GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

The only exposure of bed-rock in Watonwan county is found, as already stated, in the northwest quarter of section 29, Adrian township. A smooth and flat surface of the very compact and hard, red Potsdam quartzite is seen here along an extent of five rods from northwest to southeast, with a width varying from five to twenty feet. This is on an eastward slope, in a slight depression of drainage. The quartzite does not project out of the drift, and cannot be seen at a distance. It is undoubtedly the bed-rock beneath all the southwest quarter of Adrian township, but is elsewhere covered within the limits of this township and county by the smoother sheet of glacial drift, which rises in a broadly rounded ridge because of the prominence of this underlying rock. Through the north half of section 30, Adrian township, it lies at no great depth, and has been encountered in ploughing and digging at several places. This ridge, having here and there outdrops of the same red quartzite, continues more than twenty miles to the west, in northern Cottonwood county.

The strike of the limestone and sandstone formations of the Lower Magnesian series, in their exposures along the valley of the Minnesota river and in Blue Earth county, indicates that their continuation underlies the greater part of Watonwan county, but here they are doubtless covered in part and perhaps mainly, by Cretaceous strata.

DRIFT AND CONTOUR.

Glacial striae are very distinct on the quartzite ledge exposed in section 29, Adrian township, mostly bearing south 30° east, referred to the true meridian, but in one place, on its southeast portion, bearing south 20° east.

The contour of Watonwan county is like that which prevails generally in the basin of the Minnesota river, and is formed by a slightly undulating, or in some portions a moderately rolling, sheet of till, with massive swells rising in long, smooth slopes ten to twenty to thirty feet above the depressions. The gently undulating, smoothed surface of most of this region appears to mark areas over which the ice-sheet moved in a continuous current, and from which it disappeared by melting that was extended at the same time over a wide field. Compared with the thickness of the drift, its inequalities of contour in this county are small, and in an extensive view

it seems approximately flat. It is a part on the inclined plain which rises by an imperceptible slope from the Minnesota river to the Coteau des Prairies. Its rate of ascent toward the southwest, or increase in average height, varies from five to fifteen or twenty feet per mile. This gradual change in altitude is doubtless produced by increase in height of the bed-rocks upon which the drift lies as a sheet of somewhat uniform depth, probably varying in this county from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet; but the numerous small elevations and depressions of the surface appear to be due to the accumulation of different amounts of till by adjoining portions of the moving ice-sheet, without any corresponding unevenness of the underlying rocks.

For one or two miles southeast and south of Madelia, and for one mile southeast of St. James, the surface has frequent swells twenty to thirty feet above the depressions, being more rolling than most other parts of Watonwan county, which is generally very gently undulating in smooth prolonged slopes, with occasional lakes and here and there sloughs ten to twenty feet below the highest portions of the adjoining country.

LAKE AREA.

Chains of Lakes. It has been frequently noted that the lakes which abound upon areas overspread by the glacial drift, have their prevailing trend, or average direction of their longer axes, parallel with the course that was taken by the ice-sheet. The swells and undulations of the till have their greatest extent in this direction, and the lakes fill the hollows that are formed by its unequal accumulation. Among the hills of the terminal moraines, however, the longer axes of the lakes are apt to be transverses to the course in which the ice came, but parallel with its border. In each case, such lakes are due to variable glacial erosion and deposition; and the basins in which they lie are not more remarkable features of the contour than are its swells, hills and areas of highland. The deepest lakes contained in depressions of the till in this state are from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet in depth, reaching as far below the average level of the drift-sheet as its most elevated portions rise higher; but a great majority of these lakes, especially upon regions of only slightly undulating surface without prominent elevations, are shallow, ranging from five to twenty five feet in depth. They mainly have very gently ascending shores, but sometimes on one or more sides are partially bounded by steep banks, five, twenty and thirty feet high, formed by the wear of waves which have eaten away projecting points.

tions of their margin of till, leaving its boulders, but strewing its finer detritus over the lake-bed.

In regions of modified drift, consisting of stratified gravel and sand that were supplied from the dissolving ice-sheet, the lakes, from ten to fifty feet or more in depth, and often bordered by level or undulating tracts of modified drift, from twenty-five to one hundred feet or more above them, lie in depressions which at the time of the fluvial deposition of this drift, were probably still occupied by unmelted masses of ice, preventing sedimentation where they lay and consequently leaving hollows enclosed by steep and high banks, whose top is the margin of plateaus or plains of gravel and sand. No examples of lake basins thus surrounded by modified drift were found in Watonwan county, neither of which have any noteworthy deposits of this class, nor any such rough morainic areas as to influence the distribution and trend of their lakes.

Most of the lakes of Minnesota, and of all glacial regions, present only such forms and arrangements as are readily explained thus by the modes of excavation and accumulation, and the diverse deposits of the ice-sheets. The first described and most common type of lakes found upon the surface of the drift, trending in parallelism with the course in which the ice moved, finds illustration in Watonwan county by the lakes of Madelia, Fieldon, Long Lake and Adrian. Here the glacial current passed southeastward, this region being near the axis of the great lobe of the continental glacier which stretched from the Leaf hills and the head of the Coteau des Prairies, southeast and then south to the center of Iowa.

It seems difficult to explain the origin of these remarkable lake-basins in the drift, for, so far as they extend, they have the aspect of eroded valleys, such as have been commonly formed by the rivers of this region, but they sometimes are separated by divides of till as high as the country around. Thus they no longer form continuous channels, which must have been their original condition, if they are parts, as thus indicated, of ancient water-courses.

Boulders and Gravel, though always present, are nowhere abundant in the till of Watonwan county, and boulders larger than five feet in diameter are very rare. The frequency of limestone fragments is nearly the same as is usual through all western Minnesota. This rock often makes one-third or one-half of the gravel in the till and on the beaches of the lakes; but it supplies a much less proportion, perhaps not exceeding one-twentieth, of the boulders larger than a foot in diameter. The other large boulders are

granite, syenite, and crystalline schists. The red Potsdam quartzite is scantily represented in the drift along the west border of the county. It is almost entirely wanting farther east; but west of the Des Moines river, in Jackson county, and through Dickinson county and southward in Iowa, this quartzite is a principal ingredient of the drift, making from one-tenth to one half of its rock-fragments. At Clear Lake in Lake Belt township, thirty-five miles south-southeast from the east end of the ridge of Potsdam quartzite in Adrian township, scarcely one pebble in a thousand is from this source; while a quarter of the stones over three inches in diameter and two-thirds of the smaller gravel are limestone.

The fitness of Watonwan county for farming and herding is their chief source of wealth; and by this they are capable of supporting a large and prosperous population, mainly agricultural, with towns and villages as required for manufacturing and centers of trade. As late as 1885 some water-power mills in Watonwan county, chief among which is that of the Madelia mill, on the Watonwan river about a mile west of the town; head, eleven feet. Other water powers could be utilized on the main stream and on both its north and south branches.

Building Stone. No stone-working has been done in these counties, except the use of boulders, chiefly granite, syenite, and gneiss, with occasionally slabs of limestone, and in one instance a large mass of probably Cretaceous sandstone. These erratics of the drift, though dissimilar, make substantial, rough foundations, cellar walls, and curbing in wells.

Peat occurred in numerous places in this county at an early date and in a few instances was utilized for fuel purposes by the Russians.

CHAPTER II.

INDIAN HISTORY AND TREATIES.

When Spain ceded the territory now including Minnesota to the United States, it was subject, of course, to all the former rights of the Indian tribes found herein. It was left to the United States to subdue, or drive away the Indians, or better still to make treaties and purchase the lands from them, as they might from time to time be needed. This latter was carried out in a large degree, along legitimate lines and in a business way which, at least, was satisfactory to the tribes at the date of making such treaties.

The treaty that mostly interests the citizens of Cottonwood and Watonwan counties, was that made at Traverse des Sioux in July, 1851, with the Sioux tribes. This ceded to the white man all the Sioux Indians' holdings except a strip of ten miles in width along either side of the Minnesota river. This tract of now very valuable land, running from New Ulm to Lake Traverse, would have been held by the Indians had they not made war against the whites in 1862; by doing this they lost all title to such lands and were driven from the state of Minnesota, as a tribe. Hence, this was the first and last treaty with the Indians in this state that has had to do with the people of Cottonwood and Watonwan counties. The treaty is described more fully in Chapter I, on Related State History.

INDIAN CHARACTERS.

The Dakota or Sioux Indians were divided into four great tribes: Medawakonton, Wahpekuta, Wahpeton and Sisseton, who held a large territory west of the Mississippi; from the borders of Iowa along the Mississippi, up to the Minnesota, and stretching far into Dakota. They had great bodily strength, a slim and pleasing stature, and were remarkable for their shrewdness and deceit. Their features are rather long, and they have a dark, though not repulsive complexion. The subjoined account was written of them long years before they had caused the pioneers of the Northwest so much trouble in their warfare:

"They are continually wandering about and consequently use for means

of subsistence whatever Nature affords them. Fishing and hunting are their principal sources of support. In the spring of the year they often make sugar and syrup from the juice of the maple, and during the summer they gather wild rice and berries. This work is done by the squaws. The Indian regards his wife as a slave, and he thinks it below his dignity to do hard work. When they travel, the women not only carry the papooses and baggage, but also lead the beasts of burden, which in the absence of a wagon or sled, carry the tepee upon their backs. He often compels her, although weighed down under a heavy burden, to carry even his gun so that he can trot along with greater ease. When they find a place where fuel and water are convenient, or where hunting and fishing are good, the women will have to go to work and set up the tepees and bring in whatever is necessary, except the game, which he provides. A few so-called civilized Indians till the soil, but they seldom raise anything except corn and potatoes. These dress like the whites, and they were formerly supplied by the government with farming implements, horses, cattle, etc. They are very proud of their dress, which consists merely of a high hat and a shirt. These Indians are usually despised by the real Indians who treat every kind of a head dress with a contempt, except their own peculiar one, and whose only covering consists of a woolen blanket or a buffalo robe; and they live in tents or tepees. These prefer to dress gaily, cover themselves with all manner of trumpery, and fold the skin of an animal around their body so as to look as much as possible like the animal itself.

"In summer months they appear mostly in the garb of the old original Adam, with the addition of a gun and a smoking pipe. Their arms are bows and arrows, guns, knives, and a sort of hatchet called a tomahawk. Their necessities of life are few and very simple. They never wash their meat, and seem to have a dislike for water except 'fire-water' (whisky). Still they very much like a clean white shirt. A kettle, a few pots and the skins of animals compose all their furniture, and they eat their food, especially their meats, half raw, and devour even the entrails raw. Their appetite is prodigious. Whenever they obtain anything palatable they eat and eat without regard to their real needs or the coming day. Hence it not unfrequently happens that they are compelled to fast for days at a time. They are not much troubled with any disease, except the small-pox, and their medicine-men have in vain tried by all manner of sorceries and strange appliances to banish that dreaded complaint. A cripple, lame or deaf and dumb, is seldom found. They love their ponies, and keep as many as

possible. But during the winter they lose a great many, because they are too lazy to provide hay for them. With no barns and little food they die off before spring comes. They believe in a Great Spirit Manitou, think much of ceremonies over their dead, but hang them up on posts to be exposed to the elements until they are dried up. Their romantic life, their fidelity, their friendship and strength of character, which some writers tell us about, is pleasant sentimental reading—that's all.

"The Indian is always serious, seldom laughs or jokes, and is an uncomfortable and mistrusted companion. He understands begging above all things. He never forgets an offense, but is quite apt to forget acts of kindness. With the Indian revenge is a virtue and they practice polygamy. Their hospitality, however, is worthy of all praise. The stranger receives the best pelts for his bed, and the host keeps up a warm fire with his own hands if the pale-face happens to remain in his tent over night during the winter. They are skilful in the use of arms, keen in the chase and relentless in pursuing an enemy; they love noisy musical instruments and dance after their own peculiar fashion. Their natural senses are sharp and more fully developed than those of the whites. They are very cruel in war, and prefer deceit and stratagem to an open battle. After a fight they scalp their dead enemies before they think of carrying off the booty; for they take great pride in possessing a large number of scalps, because this indicates the number of enemies slain by them. They ornament their heads with feathers, which they consider "wakan" (holy). They can endure more hardships than the white race and are wonderful runners, many of them being able to overtake a swift horse. In hiding their feelings and in self-control they can do wonders. They suffer pain with stolid indifference, and their wounds heal quickly. To leave one of their dead in the hands of the enemy is looked upon as a foreboding evil and the greatest ignominy that could possibly happen to them."

SEVEN WEEKS' CAPTIVITY OF BENEDICT JUNI.

Benedict Juni, who is now a resident of New Ulm, tells the story of his capture by the Indians when only eleven years of age. It shows that there were some kind Indians and that the milk of human kindness was exhibited for nearly two months to a mere lad, and that during the awful outbreak in Minnesota in the summer of 1862. At that date his father was on a farm between Beaver Falls and Morton, five miles north of the Lower Agency. The story is as follows:

On August 18, 1862, while seated at the breakfast table, a noise so unusual that it caused comment, was at intervals heard by us in the direction of the Lower Agency. My father said it was the beating of drums announcing the arrival of soldiers. In reality it was the first volleys fired by the Indians at the defenseless whites. The previous day having been a Sunday, our working oxen had been left out at large. I mounted our only horse and brought them in. My father was just hitching up to the wagon when our nearest neighbors, John and Mike Hayden, and the latter's wife, approached our place in great haste and told us that the Indians were on the warpath. My father was disinclined to take it seriously, but yielding to the pleadings of the women, took the hayrack off and replaced the box, hurriedly threw in some clothing, bedding and provisions, and put the women and children in also. A Mr. Zimmerman and his eldest son took charge of the wagon. They had two guns and an old sword with which Mr. Zimmerman declared he would defend the occupants. On the way down the valley he picked up the rest of the family, consisting of his wife and two sons and two daughters.

ATTACKED BY REDSKINS.

His progress was unobstructed until he reached Faribault's place, where he and two of his sons were killed before they had a chance to make any use of their weapons. The women and children were imprisoned in the house, and the Indians had a hot debate about what to do with them. Some wanted to set the house on fire, but finally milder counsel prevailed and the women and children were allowed to pursue their way to Ft. Ridgely on foot.

My father, about the time the women and children started off from our place in the wagon with the Zimmermans, ordered me to run up our milch cows and young stock and take them to a place now occupied by the village of Morton. I was then to proceed down the valley to alarm the settlers, while he and my younger brother guarded the herd. But I was not fated to call on many settlers that morning. The Indians interfered with our program. First they came upon my father, who was guarding the cattle, and drove him off into the open prairie. Their guns were significant and he took their advice to decamp, reaching Ft. Ridgely before any of the rest of the family.

WARNS NEIGHBORS.

Meanwhile I had taken the path laid out for me. I called at two places, Mr. Bureau's and Mr. Kumrows. Both families had already been told of the danger and were making ready to escape. They asked me to go with them but I declined, as that would have interfered with carrying out my instructions. My road led me through a gap in the high rocks. I had gotten within a hundred yards of this spot when I saw three Indians coming out of the pass. I obligingly turned my horse, intending to go around the bluff and avoid meeting them. But almost immediately three guns were leveled on me, and just as obligingly I came to a halt, having a high regard for the redmen's marksmanship.

DEPRIVED OF HIS HORSE.

One of the Indians now took the horse by the bit and asked me if I intended to resist. I answered only with a smile at the thought of an unarmed boy only eleven years old resisting three armed men. At that he turned the horse around and started in the direction I had come. The thought struck me that perhaps he thought more of the horse than he did of me, so I slipped off. He swung himself on and trotted away without deigning to notice me further. His companions, seemingly well pleased with the performance, followed their leader. I was free again. Thus far I had know no fear at all. But I thought it prudent to give the road a wide berth by going around the bluff rather than through it. Before again reaching the road I saw the first dead lying in the grass. It was the body of a Frenchman, one of two brothers who were operating the ferry at which Captain Marsh and his command were annihilated a few hours later.

DOG GUARDS DEAD MASTER.

I can never forget the appealing look the murdered man's little dog gave me as he sat beside his master licking the clotted blood from his face. Thenceforth my movements were guided by more caution. Indians, wagons and oxen, among them our own, passed me while I lay in the grass a few rods away. Whenever the Indians had disappeared I would run until I saw new signs of danger, when I would hide again. In this manner I reached Faribault's place about noon.

I saw a group of Indians outside the house, the same group as I

afterwards learned, which was deciding the fate of my people. One look was enough. I dashed into the cornfield on the opposite side of the road and made a detour around the usual fording place and thus missed seeing what happened at Fariibault's place.

On the east side of the stream the road left the valley and wound up the hill toward Manger's place. The underbrush now impeded my progress and I again ventured into the road. When half way up the hill I was suddenly confronted with two young warriors who came round a sharp turn. One carried a double barreled shotgun and the other a bow. The one with the bow got ready instantly to send an arrow through me, but his companion quickly thrust the bow aside with the butt of his gun.

CAPTURED BY FOEMEN.

"Where go?" he asked me. I answered that I was bound for "Tepee tanke," or "Big House," as the Indians called the fort. He shook his head to indicate that I was mistaken, and ordered me to face about and precede them down the hill. This was the beginning of my seven weeks' captivity.

The trip down the hill to the ford occupied but a few minutes. Here we came suddenly on evidence of the brutal work of the Indians that day. The body of John Zimmerman lay by the stream. It was stretched as naturally as though it was taking a noonday nap. This was what I thought until I tried to rouse him. Then I discovered that John would wake no more. The body of his brother, Gotfried, lay in the water, he having been shot while trying to escape on a log. The father of the boys lay on the west side of the stream. My captors must have suspected that he was still living, for they rolled him over and crushed his skull with blows from the butt of the gun. Scattered about were a few household goods that had been thrown on the wagon at home. I picked up some article of clothing, but was ordered to drop it. A couple of books were there. We had only two at our house, Webster's speller and the Bible. I tucked the latter under my arm, but was compelled to drop that, too.

WHIPPED BY CAPTORS.

It appeared that my captors had been on a reconnoitering expedition toward the fort and were in a hurry to get back and report. The party in the house, including my mother, one brother and two sisters, must have gone before this, for all was quiet in and about the place. The Indians all

had vanished. My captors and I started on again. I had my trousers rolled up and one of the Indians having a blacksnake whip, gave me an occasional cut across the bare calves. The object was two-fold. It afforded him great amusement to see me jump and it considerably accelerated my speed.

On arriving at the ferry I noticed a great congestion of traffic. Four or five wagons drawn by oxen were awaiting transfer. There was great confusion. The Indians had managed pretty well so far, but coaxing the oxen onto the ferry was another matter. I stepped up the foremost team and soon it followed me onto the boat. This act brought hand-clappings and calls of "Hocksheta washtav" (good boy).

It was not long till all had passed to the south or agency side of the river. Here I was allowed to rest a quarter of an hour or more. Seated on the high bank, I watched the gun practice of the Indians, who had many new guns taken from the stores, and some taken from their victims but a few hours before, and with which they wanted to get acquainted before Captain Marsh and his men should arrive on the scene. You would never guess the target. They were moving targets. Stacks of milk pans had been taken from the stores. Each marksman took one and hurled it with a spinning motion out into the stream, allowed it to right itself and float some distance with the current, and taking good aim, fired. There was no need of a scorer. The bright pan would tell the story. The conditions in the battle fought some hours later were quite similar. It was an easy change from floating pans to the heads of swimming soldiers.

MENACED BY DRUNKEN RED.

One of my captors remained at the ferry to be on hand when the enemy appeared. The others took me up the hill to the agency. Here some of the buildings were burned, others were just plundered. I saw the Indians carry a man out of one. Whether he was dead or alive I could not tell. Some of the Indians had taken too much fire-water and were turned into demons. One brandished a butcher knife, made a lunge at me, but a thrust from the butt of the gun of my captor and protector sent him reeling. It was my third escape from death in the day and perhaps the closest. When nearing the edge of the agency, an Indian drove by with my father's wagon and oxen. Delighted at seeing something from home, I exclaimed, "Oh, there is our team."

My captor replied, "Well, if it is yours, let's take a ride." He hailed

the driver, who took us on. I immediately assumed control of the team of oxen.

UNWILLING AID OF INDIANS.

On arriving at an Indian village my captor left me at the hut of his future mother-in-law, a widow with two grown daughters. Here several squaws were squatted around an open fire on the ground. They had bags of shot which they poured into a ladle and then melted over the fire and poured into bullet molds. There was a heap of bullets on the ground, with the nipple made by the hole in the mold still on them. One of the squaws ordered me to get busy with a knife cutting off these projecting nipples. The bullets were then placed in the empty shot bags and sent to the ferry by Indians lads. Thus I became unwillingly an instrument in killing some of Captain Marsh's men.

Like most boys, I had great faith in the prowess of soldiers and believed them invincible if pitted against Indians. Repeatedly I told the squaws that they would "get their pay," meaning their punishment, for what they had done, but conveyed no meaning thus, so that if they showed displeasure I could explain that I meant their annual payment from the government.

WHEN HOPE ALMOST DIED.

About four o'clock in the afternoon a flag came in view in the direction of the agency. Soon after was seen the glitter of bayonets and swords. What I had firmly believed all day was now to come true. The soldiers were coming to mete out punishment and release the captives. I could contain myself no longer, and having no hat I picked up an old rag, clambered on the roof of an old hut, waved it and shouted several lusty hurrahs. Then I jumped down and ran toward the procession. Alas, the approaching parade was a mob of wild Indians arrayed in the garb of soldiers they had slain at the ferry. This disillusionment was the worst shock of the day for me. I then and there gave up all hope of seeing white people again. Had not the invincible soldiers been annihilated?

DRESSED AS INDIAN.

On the second or third day of my captivity several squaws assisted my mistress in making a regular Indian outfit for me. It consisted of a pair of leggings, a calico shirt, a breechcloth and a belt. In dress I was now

like an Indian, but my complexion was fair and my hair silvery white. This naturally made me conspicuous in a group of Indian boys and I was soon known all over the camp as "Paw Skaw" (whitehead). At first I did not mind it, but it finally affected my temper to a point where the squaw demanded to know what was the matter. I told her. She found a remedy. Thereafter when she had mopped my face with a wet rag as she did every morning, she scattered dried powder over my head, smeared my face with paint, made a few streaks and dots in it with her finger nails. This worked like a charm and I was no longer annoyed.

CHANGES EMPLOYERS.

The Indian who had captured our teams and wagons remembered how well the oxen had obeyed me. He soon found me again and asked me to help him haul some forage. Having accompanied him two or three times, the squaw, on my last return, said to me that if I worked for others I must board and lodge there too. The next time my Indian friend came I told him what the squaw had said. "So much the better," he replied, "come right along. Hereafter you are a member of my family."

In my new home I found a trunk that had belonged to an uncle of mine who was a soldier in the federal army in the South. In it I found a few copies of *Harper's Weekly* with pictures, mostly war scenes, and these interested me much. My master had two sons and one daughter. The eldest boy was of my age and proved to be a good companion and true friend to me. Nor was I entirely forgotten by the family that had first sheltered me.

WELL LIKED BY CAPTORS.

The two daughters called one afternoon and got permission to take me back with them for a day. Every attention was paid me. I was feasted and entertained with pleasant chat by the two girls.

For fear I may be considered a pampered drone in the hive I ought to make mention of the duties I was expected to perform. I had to provide all the wood and water for the cooking, whether the supply was far or near. I had to see to the feeding of the oxen and horses. I had to assist in pitching camp, loading and unloading and when on the move had charge of the ox-team.

The food of the Indians was good. Our rations were liberal. Green corn, potatoes and beans, fresh mutton or beef were the staple articles.

Vegetables and meats were served without salt and the coffee was black and very sweet. I protested a little and to please me a little bag of sugar and salt was put to my place and I was told to use both to suit my taste. Sometimes when strolling through the camp after a meal I would be invited to partake and never refused. One time it was the white porcelain dishes and at another the regular plantation molasses that attracted me.

REGARDED AS A PRODIGY.

Sometimes when visitors came I was the subject of conversation. I had learned to read but not to use a pen, but my master would point to me as a prodigy who could read and write. I was able to understand and answer questions about ordinary affairs. But at times I was asked questions by my Indian captors and their friends touching astronomy and religion, which were, of course, beyond my depth.

At the time the battle of Birch Coulee was raging there was great excitement in the camp. My mistress feared for my safety. Toward evening she took me into the woods skirting the bluffs south of the Minnesota river, placed me in a hollow basswood tree and told me to remain until she came the next morning. The position was cramped and uncomfortable and when it was dark I crept out and ran home to camp where I went to sleep in my usual place. On seeing me the next morning she was greatly surprised, but did not seem displeased. There were disturbances at other times when my master was at home. On these occasions he was accustomed to roll me in a buffalo robe and sit on me, calmly smoking until the danger, whatever it was, was over.

On the night that the Indians lay around General Sibley's camp at Wood lake, I slept in the powder tent on a heap of powder, which made a better mattress than one would suppose. I slept soundly.

SURRENDERED TO SOLDIERS.

On his return from the Wood lake battle, my master told me to get ready to return to my parents, as arrangements had been made for a surrender. On the next morning I put on my white man's garb, such as could be found. It consisted of a pair of man's trousers with the legs cut off at the knee, a long linen duster and a stove-pipe hat.

In this garb I was surrendered to the soldiers, and confined in a sort of enclosure with other surrendered prisoners whose names were taken and

sent to the *Pioneer* at St. Paul. In this way my father came to learn that his boy was still in the land of the living. But the end of my adventures had not yet come. Two other boys and myself—Louis Kitzmann and August Gluth—being tired of this confinement, escaped from the white soldiers, and I was captured again by the Indians and again surrendered when some of the Indians decided to quit the warpath and come in. My companions got away entirely and reached Ft. Ridgely before I did. In the camp of the Indians I waited upon women and messed with three little girls. One tin dish and one tin spoon constituted our outfit and rice and sugar the only food except some wormy crackers. My two companions, Kitzmann and Gluth, left Camp Release on the first opportunity and reached Ft. Ridgely on the same day that my father and Mr. Gluth had come to look for us. Kitzmann's father was not there. He had been killed at the outbreak of the massacre. My experiences at the fort were not of the most pleasing character. I now realized fully that to be a captive among the Sioux was not the worst lot that could have befallen me. Within a few days of my arrival at the fort my father took me to LeSueur, where I had a home until the autumn of 1865.

CAUSES LEADING TO THE INDIAN MASSACRE, 1862.

The chief cause for the Indian outbreak of 1862 was the dishonesty of the "Indian Agents" sent out by the government to look after the disbursements of funds due the Indians, who, in many cases, worked in connection with the traders at the posts or agencies, to greatly defraud the Indian. While the general government usually sought to live up to its treaties, it was thwarted in its attempt to fulfill its treaty promises by its agents.

In 1858 the government purchased that portion of the reservation lying north of the Minnesota river, so that the Indians retained only a strip of land ten miles wide and one hundred and fifty miles long. For the portion thus ceded, costing the government about one cent an acre, two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars were to be paid annually to the chiefs of the Sissetons and Waphe-ton-s, and also thirty thousand dollars for the education of their tribes. The Medawakontons and Wahpekutas were also to receive two hundred thousand dollars annually, payable to their chiefs, and thirty thousand dollars for their education, the government promising the Indians at that time to do all in its power for their education, elevation and civiliza-

tion. The whole sum was to be paid annually for fifty years; about five hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars.

This honest debt contracted by the government, was, with the exception of an insignificant portion of it, never paid; and this was the principal cause of the dissatisfaction and revolt of the Indians. The government did, indeed, pay the stipulated sum regularly, but the superintendents, agents, etc., to whom the money was entrusted for distribution and payment, managed to keep the greater portion of it for themselves.

The following extracts, which, alas, contain neither slander nor exaggeration, nor misrepresentation of the real facts, will give the reader an idea of how the Indians were treated. A prominent officer, Major Kitzing Pritchette, being sent from Washington to investigate the numerous complaints of gigantic swindles raised by the Indians, in his official report says:

"The complaints which are made at all their meetings refer to the imperfect fulfillment or non-compliance with the conditions of the treaty."

Tag-ma-na, a chief of the assembled Indians, said in his presence:

"The Indians sold their land in Traverse des Sioux. I say what they tell us. For fifty years we were to receive fifty thousand dollars annually, and we were promised three hundred thousand dollars. We have seen nothing of it."

At the same meeting, Mahpya Wicasta (Man-of-the-Cloud), the second chief of the assembled Indians, said:

"In the treaty of Traverse des Sioux we were to receive two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars as soon as we had entered upon the land pointed out by the government. Tell us what was done with it? Every paleface knows that we are for the past five years on the territory named in the treaty, and as yet we have received none of the money."

A principal cause of these swindles was the acts of the so-called traders, who were consequently also the cause of the dissatisfaction of the Indians. These traders were merchants licensed to sell goods to the Indians, or to trade with them. Since, as a rule, the Indians had no money to pay for goods they bought, the trader would bring his bills to the paymaster at the time payment was to be made to the Indians, if such a time ever came, and the Indians, being neither able to read or write, these bills were shamefully and unmercifully changed and increased. The sums thus deducted from the amounts due the Indians was a transaction as cruel as it was unjust, but the poor red man was helpless. His complaint could be lodged only through the powerful influence of the traders to conceal the

truth as much as possible. Others, though commanding both languages, were not listened to by the agents. The Indians were often so much cheated that they had as little pay after a payment which would amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars as they had before.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE AGENTS.

Judge Young, sent from Washington to investigate the complaints against Alexander Ramsey, at that time superintendent of Indian affairs, and later governor of Minnesota, says in his report:

"Alexander Ramsey was principally accused of having, in spite of the protests of the Indians, in violation of the laws of the treaties, and in utter disregard of the solemn promises upon the part of the government, paid the greater portion of the money to a man named Hugh Tyler for payment or distribution among the Indians or half-breeds. According to the treaties the money was to be paid to the chiefs."

And thus of the two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars which should have been paid to the Indians, according to article IV of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, Ramsey gave two hundred and fifty thousand to Hugh Tyler under the pretext that the money belonged to traders and half-breeds. Mr. Tyler also received seventy thousand of the one hundred and ten thousand dollars, which, according to the treaty of August 5, 1851, should have been paid to the Medawakontons. Altogether, of the three hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars belonging to the Indians, Tyler received three hundred and twenty thousand as a recompense for his labors in the Senate in behalf of the treaties, and also to reimburse him for his expenses in securing the consent of the chiefs. Such were his claims.

During the year 1857 a number of Indians were induced by a trader to sign a paper, the object of which, he said, was to cause a portion of the money they owed to the traders to be returned to them. But it was in reality a simple order in his favor, and the Indians were again cheated out of twelve thousand dollars. Wherever there was stealing the Indians had to pay for it, the amount being simply deducted from money due them. Thus a trader received four thousand five hundred dollars for goods which he claimed had been stolen from him, and a man in Sioux City, Iowa, received five thousand dollars for horses, also claimed to have been stolen by the Indians, although it was known that the Indian seldom steals anything of which he is not in need. When at peace with the whites it was ever their rule, if they found any property belonging to the whites to at once

return the same to its owner. Such actions on the part of the white men had a tendency to fill the minds of the sons of the wilderness with a loathing and disregard for "civilization." The government had also promised the Indians to confer upon them the true blessings of civilized life, for which purpose there were at the agencies crowds of employees who were to teach them the principles of agriculture, mechanics, architecture, etc. As a rule, the United States government intended to do well and be honorable with the Indians, and provided them with horses and cattle, farming tools, seed, etc., and sent teachers and missionaries among them to educate them.

But the officers appointed by the government to deal with the Indians managed to secure the benefits of the treaties for themselves. From the first to the last they were united for the one purpose of deceiving the Indians. How the Indians received their stipulated provisions, clothing, etc., may be illustrated by one example. It was in the year 1865. A large number of barrels of flour and meat were to be sent from Henderson, Sibley county, Minnesota, to Ft. Abercrombie. The contractors, in order to obtain the necessary conveyances at the lowest possible figure, deferred the delivery of these provisions so long that the whole train was snowed in over a hundred miles from the fort. The barrels were simply put on the open prairie and the teamsters came back. When the poor, half-starved Sioux were informed of this some time after, they started out to get the provisions, but, instead of good flour they found bran and shorts, and flour made from spoiled wheat, which could not be used for bread; and yet the contractors received nearly fifteen dollars a barrel for the lot.

SCHEMES OF THE TRADERS.

The principal agent divided the money allotted to the Indians among sub-officers and traders, who, at the time of payment, received enormous sums of money for pretended services rendered and goods sold to the Indians. Contractors whose business it was to procure whatever was needed at the agency, such as provisions, horses, cattle, farming implements, etc., all charged enormously for their services. The Indians were to be supplied with good horses and cattle, but they received the worst and poorest, for which they had to pay five times the ordinary value. Not knowing the real value of such articles the Indian was constantly swindled. A valuable buffalo hide was frequently given for a pound of sugar. Many paid from three to five dollars for a single drink of whisky. A certain quantity of fuel was to be delivered to them annually. This was, despite their protests,

cut from their own lands, after which they had to pay half price for it. A large mill was built of funds belonging to the Indians, and still they had to pay a high price for what milling products they bought there. House after house was erected for the Indians solely to give some contractor a chance to do the work. Many Indians had fine large brick residences erected but lived in tepees, and the agents knew they preferred the wild way of living, but built the structures to give men work who spent the money received at the traders' stores—a real graft game. One very interesting feature was how they were taught the different arts and sciences. Some employees were continually building fences only to be used for fuel by the Indians. They would plow and sow at all seasons of the year simply to show the Indian how it was done. One Randall, employed as a teacher, used to drive his pupils away from the school with a whip, but drew his salary amounting to several thousand dollars regularly."

THE INDIAN PROTEST.

Every question, it is said, has two sides, and before passing on to a description of the massacre of 1862, let the reader hear what was contended by old chief Red Iron, as early as 1852—ten years before this outbreak. It was in December, 1852, that the chief of the Sisseton, Ma-zas-ha (Red Iron), was, on account of his bad behavior, to be deprived of his dignity as chief by Ramsey, the superintendent of Indian affairs.

Red Iron was the real type of an Indian chief, some six feet high, strongly built, had a finely shaped head, a prominent nose and piercing eyes. He was clad in the costume of a Dakota chief; about forty years old, shrewd, proud and determined, and answered boldly and promptly the questions and objections raised by Ramsey. As an orator he had much talent. When Ramsey insisted upon getting his signature for the purpose of retaining a considerable sum of money from funds belonging to the Indians in order to pay some old debts due the traders, Red Iron, raising himself to his full height, pressing his hand firmly upon his scalping knife, with a firm determined look at the agent, said:

"We want our pay, and we will sign no paper except a receipt for the money. The snow covers the ground, and we are still waiting for our money. We are very poor; you have plenty. Your fires burn well; your tents are well closed against the cold. We have nothing to eat. We wait a long time for our money. Many of our people are sick from hunger. We will have to die, because you do not pay us. We may die, and if so we

will leave our bones unburied, so that our Great Father may see how his Dakota children died. We have sold our hunting grounds and no less the graves of our fathers. We also sold our own graves. We do not know where we shall bury our dead, and you will not pay the money for that land."

After this well-delivered speech was made he was taken a prisoner. The air began to tremble before the hideous yells of the Dakota warriors, and armed Indians hurried from all sides to a place upon which the bones of dead warriors were strewn about. Lean Bear, a favorite among the warriors of Red Iron's band, a determined and powerful Indian, dropped his blanket and grasped the scalping knife with his right hand and recounted all the great deeds of their imprisoned chief, whereupon they cried "Ho! ho!" After that he said to them:

"Dakotas! the great men are among us; they hold Ma-zas-ha imprisoned like a wolf; they want to kill him because he prevents the white men to cheat us of our land and the money which the Great Father has sent us."

He was interrupted by a thundering "Ho! ho!" but continued:

"Dakotas! shall we starve in the snow like buffaloes? Shall we permit our blood to freeze like the waters of a brook, or shall we paint the snow with the blood of white warriors?"

"Ho! ho!" answered the savages, and the war cry resounded in the whole assembly.

"Dakotas!" he continued, "the blood of your fathers cries to you from their graves; their spirits embrace us and make us strong. I am glad of it. Even this very night shall the blood of the pale-faces flow like water in a shower, and Ma-zas-ha shall fight with his people. Dakotas! as soon as the moon hides behind the hills prepare yourselves, and I will lead you against the long knives (bayonets and swords) of the white men who have come to swindle us, to rob us of our land, and to imprison us, because we do not assist them to rob our wives and children. Dakotas! be without fear; we have more warriors than the whites. Be ready! When the moon sinks I will lead you to their tents."

ORGANIZATION OF YOUNG WARRIORS.

Time went on and December, 1861, the Indians, some fifteen hundred of them, had to be cared for in order to keep them from starvation. Crops had been poor several years, bugs had ruined the crops only the summer before. A fearful snow-storm came during the month of Febru-

ary, 1862, and this frustrated their hopes of soon being able to supply themselves with game. Under these circumstances they anxiously waited for the payday of 1862. They knew all about the great Civil War which was then in progress, and this increased their fears that the government might not be able to pay them. They also desired to see the North whipped, so that they might be enabled to complete the work. There are those who think that some who were in sympathy with the South did all they could to induce the Indians into mischief. Misled by unfavorable reports the Indians imagined that they had to fight only with old men, women and children, and that they had reason to fear that they never would receive any more money.

The different tribes went to the agency early to demand their pay. The agents told them they would receive their money, but did not know when, which caused great dissatisfaction among the Indians. In the course of time from five to six thousand were gathered there. All were full of fear and mistrust lest they might not receive their money. Their want was so great that many died of hunger, others lived on roots and raw corn. Reports were circulated by some of the whites that the government was becoming weaker day by day, and messengers began to go from one tribe to another planning the possibility and success of a revolt. The older and more intelligent among them were opposed to it; but the hot-headed, and especially the younger warriors, formed themselves into a secret society called "Soldiers' Lodge."

This secret society, established early in July, had for its object to oppose the traders and to prevent them from getting their money, and in case of necessity to defend their rights by force. The chiefs, although informed of this organization, did not dare oppose it. They well understood the dangers connected with it, since these young warriors numbered from five to six thousand; and the chiefs were even suspected of being in league with the officers of the government for suppressing and swindling their people. The traders soon learned about the Soldiers' Lodge and its object, and when the Indians wanted to buy something from them on credit, they were told to go to the Soldiers' Lodge. The Indians, compelled to ask for credit on account of their extreme need, would answer the traders: "If we could, like our women, give ourselves up to you, we could get all the credit we ask for; but since we are men we cannot."

FIRST ACT OF VIOLENCE.

And thus did bitterness increase during 1862. Those who were suspected of informing the traders and others of the doings of the society were severely persecuted, and some of them killed. Their first act of violence was committed on August 4, 1862. The time for payment was up in July. The want among the assembled tribes was alarmingly on the increase. Some of them had already devoured their own ponies and dogs. Six children had died of starvation within three days. Agent Galbraith traveled from one agency to another in order to pacify them; and sometimes distributed provisions, tobacco, powder and lead. But that was not sufficient to quiet the uneasiness caused by the delay of their pay. Early in the morning of the 4th of August, some five hundred and fifty young warriors, mostly members of Soldiers' Lodge, forced an entrance into the warehouse, tore down the American flag and took over one hundred and fifty sacks of flour before any resistance was offered, which could have been done, since there were one hundred well-armed soldiers with two heavy cannons near by. The soldiers entered the warehouse and took possession of it whilst the Indians stood around with loaded rifles. But when the agent promised to furnish them with pork, rice and flour the following day, they did not attempt any further disturbance.

The fact that not one of the warriors was punished for this serious breach of the peace made them bold and daring; and the more so when they saw the able men among the whites leave for the South at their country's call on the 13th, 14th and 15th of August. On the 18th of August, at eight o'clock a. m., they left New Ulm under Lieutenant Culver and Sergeant McGrew, as "Keyville Rangers," and on the same day the Indians broke out.

The time was now at hand which was to give the two Germans who had been murdered some time before numerous companions. A man named Brand had been put to death on the banks of the Little Cottonwood, six miles south of New Ulm, in the spring of 1857, and his body was found in the brush near some Indian tepees. John B. Schmitz wanted to settle on the reservation ten miles west of New Ulm, but on the 27th of April, 1860, while digging a cellar, he was treacherously shot and killed.

The murderer, a Sioux, was imprisoned at New Ulm. During the trial in the court room a heavy chain was attached to his feet, and he was well guarded. At a necessary call he desired to leave the room. Constable

Charles Seeler obtained the assistance of his deputy, Doctor Blecken, a renowned physician, who was at one time a Lutheran minister, but later a preacher at a free church; he was also one of the founders of New Ulm. To guard against any possible accident, a third deputy was called into service. But man proposed, and, in this instance, the Indian disposed. So soon as he was in the open air he managed to shake off his fetters, and with the swiftness of a deer the stalwart form of the Indian disappeared from before their astonished gaze. The three officers of the law, on account of the sudden and unexpected disappearance of their prisoner, were so stunned that they did not as much as remember their revolvers, which were left untouched in the official pockets. It was just at dusk and the Indian did not return. The trial was over. Such murders and the escape of the guilty ones caused much alarm in the country.

About the middle of August, 1862, Mail-carrier Miles was met by the Indians some two miles south of the Lower Agency and led out of his way across the prairie, because they were holding a secret meeting in a ravine on the bank of the river, where he would have observed them. A few days previous to this Miles noticed some newly-cut signs on the trees, apparently of great importance. About the same time friendly Indians warned the settlers of the approaching dangers, saying: "Pakat-shif" (go away) and "Xippo" (to kill). They also made signs with their hands which the whites did not want to understand or believe. A week or so before the outbreak, a number of gaudily dressed and decorated Indians held in the town of New Ulm those wild dances, which are always forebodings of evil. Their tomahawks and scalping knives were sharpened. The cause of the outbreak was evidently the neglect of a prompt fulfillment of duty on the part of the government officials, the extreme need of the Indians and delay of their annual pay. They were to receive their money in gold coin. The government sent the money promptly to St. Paul, where it remained for a long time; but the officials in whose hands it had been placed, exchanged it for paper money at a great premium, in opposition to the loud protests of the chiefs of the Sioux tribe. The Indians, not being accustomed to handle paper money, became greatly enraged so that the agents finally concluded to re-exchange it for gold. This, of course, caused a great loss, the premium being then very high. But they were little concerned about this, for they intended to make the Indians pay the discount. They soon found out, however, that they had been calculating without consulting the party most deeply interested in the transaction.

REMINISCENCES OF THE LITTLE CROW UPRISING.

[By Dr. Asa W. Daniels, in a paper read before the executive council, November 14, 1910, and now forming a part of the records of the Minnesota Historical Society Collections, volume XV, 1915.]

Considering the two thousand lives involved, largely women and children, the successful defense of New Ulm was the most momentous event in the Indian War of 1862-63. From that defeat the Indians turned westward and abandoned further combined raids upon the settlements. The active part taken by the people of St. Peter will ever be an impressive chapter in the eventful history of that city. Her immediate and generous response with volunteers, and their long and hurried march, enabled them to join in defending New Ulm in the afternoon, and later to participate in the uncertain issue of battle that held the besieged in its grasp for a whole day. The command of General Sibley would have reached the city too late to save it from savage fury, and had not the response been immediate from St. Peter LeSueur and Mankato, its fate must have been horrible to contemplate.

Some of the events of that battle have never been fully stated in the official reports, and others not mentioned came under the observation of the writer. Therefore it will be of interest to learn, from one who had superior opportunities, the particulars of the battle as seen by him.

The news of the Indian outbreak reached St. Peter during the night of Monday, the 18th of August, 1862, it having commenced at the lower Sioux agency at seven o'clock that morning. Major Galbraith, who had reached St. Peter in the evening before, on his way to Ft. Snelling with a company of recruits, learning of the situation, at daylight started on his return to Ft. Ridgely, which he reached in time to participate in its defense.

At four o'clock in the morning of Tuesday the writer was notified of the outbreak and was asked by Captain Dodd to go to Ronnseville and Briggs neighborhood, six miles to the northwest, and notify the settlers, and he informed me at that time that messengers had already been dispatched in other directions. I was soon on the way, going from house to house, spreading the alarm, and sending others to more distant locations. On my return the refugees were already pouring in, and by noon the village became crowded with men, women and children. Some had been attacked on the way, and bore their wounded with them. All were in a most pitiable

condition, having in their fright and haste taken little clothing and no provisions, reaching their destination completely destitute. Every house was sympathetically thrown open to the refugees, and was soon filled from cellar to garret. The vacant Ewing House, a hotel of fifty rooms or more, and an unoccupied store building, were soon filled, and being of stone afforded safety and comparative comfort; but many were compelled to resort to sheds and barns, or to remain unsheltered for some nights, until better provided.

A YEAR BEFORE THE OUTBREAK.

A little more than a year before the outbreak I had located in St. Peter, having left the government service at the Lower Agency, as physician and surgeon to the Sioux Indians, after a service of more than seven years. I had visited them a month before and heard from them many complaints, principally against their physician, Doctor Humphrey. My long service among them had been satisfactory to myself and the Indians, and I had many warm friends in every band, among them being Little Crow, and I may say most of the chiefs. Therefore, when the news of the outbreak came, I was in great doubt in regard to its being general, but I thought it confined to a single band, and that the outrages had occurred when they were under the influence of whisky sold them by the whites. But within twenty-four hours my confidence in my old friends was rudely shattered, and I came to realize, on seeing the dead and wounded, that the outbreak was general and of the most barbarous character.

As a government officer, I had observed for more than two years the close intimacy that was growing up between the Sioux and Winnebagoes. This was apparent from frequent visits of large parties of Winnebagoes to the agency, intermarriages that took place, uniting in games, and tribal pledges of friendship. No doubt some of the Winnebagoes participated in the battle that took place, but were too discreet to have it known. Had success attended the Sioux at Ft. Ridgely and New Ulm, there is little doubt there would have been a union of the tribes against the whites.

At St. Peter, to which we return after a slight digression, Captain Dodd and Major Flandrau had enlisted about one hundred and forty men to march at once in defense of New Ulm. Many of these volunteers fled from their country homes in the morning, hurriedly disposed of their families, and bravely responded to the call for a thirty-mile march before the close of their eventful day.

I joined them as a surgeon of the command, and we were on our way about midday. The men were armed with double-barreled shotguns, a few rifles, and some other arms of uncertain efficiency. Some were on horseback and a few in buggies; having to carry my surgical and medical cases, I availed myself of the latter conveyance. On reaching Courtland, twenty miles, a heavy shower drenched the command, but the march was continued, all being enthusiastic to reach New Ulm, where refugees informed me, there was a little battle going on and much of the town burned. We reached Redstone, two miles from the village, just as it was getting dark, and from that distance it did look as if the whole town was on fire; but crossing the ferry, we rushed on and reached the vicinity of the Dakota House about ten o'clock at night.

As we were leaving St. Peter we were joined by the command under Captain Tousley, of LeSueur, of nearly one hundred men, who continued with us on the march to New Ulm. With them, as surgeons, were Dr. Otis Ayers and Dr. William W. Mayo, father of the two distinguished surgeons of Rochester. It was midnight before we found quarters for the night, and then I shared my bed with Doctor Ayers, passing a comfortable night after a long and strenuous day.

SITUATION AT NEW ULM.

Early in the morning of Wednesday we were looking over the situation as left from the engagement the afternoon before. On a vacant lot near the center of the town lay six dead, brought in from the scene of the engagement, and others had been cared for by their families. The physicians then visited the wounded and cared for them, and for some of the refugees who were ill from fright and anxiety.

During the forenoon of Wednesday, Captain Bierbauer came in with nearly one hundred men from Mankato, and a few men came from Nicollet, under the command of Capt. Samuel Coffin. An organization was formed on that day by the military, who selected Major Flandrau as commander, Captain Dodd as lieutenant, and S. A. Burrell as provost marshal. Pickets were established on the outskirts of the town, and guard duty for the night. During the day quarters and the commissary departments were established for the different commands.

A company of sixteen mounted men from St. Peter, among them Henry A. Swift and Horace Austin, afterward governor of the state, had started

to the front some hours before the command of Flandrau was ready to leave, and had reached New Ulm in time to participate in the battle of Tuesday afternoon.

Thursday morning, after guard mount and after a company had been selected to dig rifle pits, a company of a hundred men, under the command of Captain Dodd, was ordered to go to Little Cottonwood settlement, six miles south, to bury the dead and rescue any that might be hiding or wounded. Doctor Ayers and myself were detailed to accompany the command. The doctor invited me to have a seat with him in his buckboard, which I thankfully accepted. The command had hardly made half the distance to the settlement before they were fired upon from ambush, but none was wounded, and, after returning the volley, we continued our march. Three mounted Indians soon showed themselves, but at a safe distance, observing our course, and in derision waving their blankets, keeping in sight most of the time during the march.

On reaching the settlement, the saddest scene presented itself that humanity is ever called upon to witness. The massacre had probably taken place on Monday before, and the dead were lying in all directions about the farm houses—in bed, in different rooms of the house, in the yard, near the grain stacks, and on the lawn. During the three days that the remains had been exposed the flies had done their work, and as a result the faces of the dead presented a revolting spectacle. Trenches were dug, and the bodies were gathered together and laid within, blankets were spread over them, and a prayer was offered; then earth to earth, ashes to ashes, and the command turned sadly away, having witnessed a burial scene that could never be forgotten.

By the military the day had been passed in strengthening the defenses of the town, providing themselves with ammunition, and fixing upon positions of advantage in case of an attack. News came in during the day of fighting at Ft. Ridgely, and of Captain Marsh's defeat at the agency, and many other alarming accounts from refugees.

A LONG AND USELESS MARCH.

The principal event of Friday was the detailing of one hundred and forty men, under command of Captain Tousley, to go to Leavenworth, west and south of Ft. Ridgely, expecting to find persons there unable to escape and that might be rescued, but nothing definite was known in regard to the situation there. Doctors Ayers, Mayo and myself joined the command—

I again having a seat with Doctor Ayers. The route was across an open prairie, and we had not proceeded far before we discovered three mounted Indian scouts to the north keeping in line with us and watching our course. Late in the afternoon we reached the vicinity of Ft. Ridgely and for the first time heard cannonading going on there, the sounds reaching us at short intervals. After its significance had fully impressed me, I said to Doctor Ayers that the Indians had attacked the fort in great force, and that as scouts had been watching our course, in case we continued our march to Leavenworth they would certainly withdraw from the fort during the afternoon or in the morning and cut us off. We had expected to remain at Leavenworth over night, returning the next day. Doctor Ayers agreed with me fully, and rode forward and consulted with Captain Tousley, who called a halt and gave his reasons for so doing, asking of the command to express their wishes by a showing of hands. It was carried by those in favor of going forward by two or three votes.

We continued our march for another hour, the warning notes of cannon coming to us regularly; the sun was nearly down, night was coming on, and fatigue was telling upon the command, when a second halt was called and another vote was taken, which resulted in an order to return to New Ulm. We reached our return destination after midnight, thoroughly worn out and disgusted from this long and useless march, which might have resulted not only in the destruction of the command, but perhaps in the capture of New Ulm.

The morning of Saturday was warm and fair, and at first we hopefully looked forward to an uneventful day. Much time had been taken in preparing for an attack, by burning outer buildings, digging rifle-pits, and loopholing such walls as might be made serviceable. On that morning Colonel Flandrau gave me a dozen men and I barricaded the avenue a little west of the Gross hotel. From the roof of the Erd building, a central business block, with a glass an extensive view was had of the surrounding country, and at this point of observation a watchman was on duty during the day.

THE ATTACK BEGINS.

The first surprise and alarm of the morning came when at guard mount, west of the town, Lieutenant Edwards was instantly killed by an Indian so concealed in the grass that danger was unsuspected. About eight o'clock a. m., the watchman from the roof saw Indians collecting some two miles west of town, and signal smokes from the northwest. His observations

were confirmed by officers and others. The certainty of a deadly conflict with a barbarous foe, when no quarter is expected is a most trying test of courage, but, with few exceptions, the situation was heroically accepted. The women and children were hurried to places of safety, the command was got under arms, and the physicians selected rooms for receiving the wounded, Doctors Mayo and McMahon in the Dakota House, and Doctor Ayers and myself in a store room on the opposite side of the avenue.

Within one hour the large body of Indians who had been forming on the west, were seen to be rapidly moving upon the town. The signals indicated a like approach from the north. When aware of this approach, Colonel Flandrau posted his men upon the slope of one of the terraces on the west with a line of skirmishes in front. Little Crow was mounted and led his warriors, who were on foot. In a long line with flanks curved forward, they approached in silence within a quarter of a mile of the defenders, when they gave a terrific war-cry and rushed forward upon a run, holding their fire until they had received that of our men, and then delivering an effective volley at close range. The defenders fell back in a panic and the whole line retreated to the barricades. The assault was well executed, and had it been pushed to its limit might have resulted in the capture of the town by the Indians. But our men soon rallied behind the barricades and buildings, which arrested the onward rush of the Indians and compelled them to seek protection of the outer buildings.

Lieutenant Huey, with seventy-five men, was ordered to the ferry to prevent the Indians from crossing from the north side. Either from a misunderstanding or over-confidence, he crossed his command to the north side of the river, there meeting a large body of the enemy, retreated to Nicollet, and was not seen again until the next day. This unfortunate event was a serious loss to the defense. The firing from both sides became rapid, sharp and general, the Indians gradually pushing their way in surrounding the town, which they accomplished before midday. They fought with the utmost boldness and ferocity, and with the utmost skill and caution from every hollow and grass patch, and from behind every house and hillock or log. The crisis came at two p. m., when the Indians fired buildings on both sides of the avenue in the lower part of town. A strong wind was blowing from the east, and the conflagration threatened the destruction of our only defense. Colonel Flandrau rallied a sufficient force, and charging down the street, drove the enemy from the avenue. But just at this critical time the wind changed to the opposite direction, and clouds, which had been gath-

ering for hours, shed upon our threatened locality a sufficient shower of rain to prevent the further extending of the flames.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN DODD.

The unfortunate incident of the day's battle that led to the death of Captain Dodd has never been correctly reported. In justice to the brave men that participated in that critical movement, a correct understanding should be had of the reasons that, at the time, seemed to make the undertaking imperative.

It will be remembered that Lieutenant Huey had retreated toward Nicollet in the morning, and all through the day we looked for his return with reinforcements, which really took place the following day.

About five o'clock there appeared beyond the Indian outer line, at the east, some forty or fifty men, marching in single file, under the command of an officer, carrying the American flag. They were dressed in citizens' clothes, and all had the appearance of the reinforcements so anxiously expected.

The Indians had again gained possession of the buildings on the avenue east, perhaps five blocks from the Dakota House, and from that position were delivering a galling fire upon our line.

Immediately, on discovering what all thought to be our reinforcements, Captain Dodd, in a short speech, volunteered to lead any that would follow to the clearing of the avenue of the Indians and joining our reinforcements beyond. Rev. Father Sunrison and Doctor Mayo both made speeches urging all to unite in support of Dodd. Some twenty men responded, Dodd and Shoemaker being mounted, and proceeded down the avenue. It was a movement of only a few moments consideration, and seemed to promise an important result. Dodd rushed forward with a cheer, hardly coming within the Indian lines before receiving a deadly volley, which hurriedly sent them back to positions of safety. Captain Dodd wheeled his horse and reached a log blacksmith's shop, when the horse plunged forward and fell. Partially supporting himself and being assisted by others, the fatally-wounded leader was taken to the building, a cot prepared and there within an hour he died. He had received three mortal wounds, two other slight wounds, and the horses ridden by Dodd and Shoemaker were both killed. The writer had witnessed from our hospital the whole movement, saw Dodd fall and hurried to his assistance. There was little that could be done, as he was in a dying condition. He appreciated his condition and met it courageously,

giving a message to his wife and to Bishop Whipple, with the utmost coolness and consideration.

AN INDIAN STRATAGEM.

The party we had supposed to be reinforcements, upon the volley from the Indians and our men falling back, suddenly disappeared, and it proved to be a stratagem to draw out some of our men and cut them off. Had the Indians in the buildings held their fire until they had advanced a half block farther, it would have been successful. In explanation of how the Indians became possessed of so many suits of citizens' clothes, it may be said that twenty-two months before one hundred and fifty suits were issued to them by the government, under the pledge of becoming farmers, much of this clothing having never been worn more than a few days.

The assault commencing in the morning at 9:30, was kept up without interruption until dark, when the Indians withdrew in the direction of Ft. Ridgely. During the evening all buildings outside of our barricades were burned. By ourselves and the Indians one hundred and ninety buildings were destroyed. We lost ten killed and forty wounded, the small loss being accounted for by the fact that we were fighting from the loop-holes of buildings and barricades. The Indians loss has never been known. Both hospitals received and dressed the wounded, providing temporary cots for them. Some that were only slightly wounded returned and continued in the fight during the day.

Saturday night was anxious and disturbed with desultory firing by our guards, and perhaps by the Indians. Sunday morning it seemed from heavy firing that the assault was to be renewed; but it gradually lessened and by noon ceased entirely. About noon Capt. E. St. Julien Cox arrived with about fifty men, accompanied by Lieutenant Huey with part of his detachment which had been cut off the day before. During Sunday afternoon search was made for the recovery of the dead. Three or four were found that had fallen so far out as to be exposed to any indignity that the Indians might offer, but none was scalped or otherwise mutilated. Jerry Quane, a St. Peter volunteer, had the totem of Little Crow attached to the clothing over his breast. The totem was the skin of a crow, preserved in its natural form, symbolic of the family name. The parting with such a treasured emblem was to boastfully inform us from whom the brave defender had met his death.

RETREAT TO MANKATO.

Early on Monday morning the order was issued for the evacuation of the village. Colonel Flandrau must have been wholly responsible for this move, as I am sure the medical officers were not consulted and were entirely ignorant of it until a short time before the movement was commenced. We had received reinforcements the day before, our position was stronger than ever, the sanitary conditions did not necessitate great urgency in moving, and the volunteers would have loyally remained. General Sibley was at St. Peter, and would have arrived within a few days, therefore it was a mistake to retreat from New Ulm until relieved by him. The route was part of the way through a dense forest, and had a few Indians attacked a panic and massacre would have ensued. It is an ungracious and unwelcome task to criticise the Colonel, but a truthful statement seems to demand that it should be done, in this respect at least. Nearly two thousand men, women and children took up the march for Mankato, thirty miles distant, bearing the wounded in conveyances. Fortunately the long march was uneventful, and we reached our destination late in the evening, where we received a generous reception.

On Tuesday the volunteers from St. Peter reached home and disbanded. The writer brought with him the Rev. Mr. Saunders, severely wounded, who had volunteered with the LeSueur company. Some of the wounded were left at Mankato, but most of them came to St. Peter, and their care became most urgent. My brother, assistant surgeon with General Sibley's command, assisting, we established a hospital in the court room at the court house. The room was large, well ventilated and afforded space for twenty beds, sufficient for the most serious cases. The care of the hospital devolved upon me, as my brother left with his command two or three days later.

Of the cases that came under my care, the most serious were as follows: Mr. Summers, of Nicollet, shot through the spinal column, died; Rufus Huggins was shot through the mouth, severing his tongue, recovered; a Sibley county volunteer, with a compound fracture of the arm bone near the shoulder joint, had amputation and recovered; Rev. Mr. Saunders, with an abdominal wound, recovered; Mr. Bean, a St. Peter volunteer, with a shot through the face, fracturing his lower jaw, recovered; a St. Paul volunteer, with a penetrating gunshot wound of the brain, lived two or three days and died insane at St. Peter.

From the time the news of the outbreak was received, the citizens of

St. Peter were active in providing for the refugees and the protection of the city. They organized committees for the various duties, as care for the sick, supplying food and clothing and fortifying. Night and day guard duty was kept up, earth-works were thrown up, rifle-pits dug and barricades erected.

THE GOVERNMENT NOT GUILTYLESS.

In closing this paper the writer, who was so long and intimately associated with the Indians as a government official, desires to say that he found this people possessed of many of the virtues common to the human family, and that socially and morally their lives were of a standard quite as high as among civilized races. The outbreak was induced by long-continued violation of treaty obligations on the part of the government, inflicting upon these unfortunate wards untold want and suffering. Like violent acts of mobs among civilized communities, the massacre was a barbarous and unreasoning protest against injustice. Had the government faithfully carried out the treaty obligations and dealt with the Sioux justly and humanely, the outbreak would not have occurred.

PUNISHMENT OF THE SIOUX.

The Indians were defeated—they lost all the twenty-mile-wide and one-hundred mile long strip of land reserved for them along the Minnesota river above New Ulm to the headquarters, having it abrogated by the United States government on account of this war, which was contrary to the treaty terms made at Traverse des Sioux in 1851. They also had thirty-eight of their leaders in the bloody massacre hanged at Mankato, December 26, 1862. And they were as a people driven from the state forever.

This execution was brought about in the following manner: After the campaign of 1862, and the guilty parties were confined at Camp Lincoln, near Mendota, the idea of executing capitally three hundred Indians aroused the sympathy of those far removed from these scenes of butchery. President Abraham Lincoln was importuned, principally by the people of the East and the Quakers in Pennsylvania. The voice of the blood of innocence crying from the ground, the wailing of mothers bereft of their children were hushed in the tender cry of sympathy for the condemned. Even the Christian ministers, stern in the belief that "Whosoever sheddeth man's blood by man, shall his blood be shed," seemed now the most zealous for the

pardon of these merciless outlaws who had shed the blood of innocent women and children in the time of peace.

Senators Wilkinson and William Windom made eloquent, urging appeals to the President for the proper execution of sentence in the case of these Indians. One quotation from one of these distinguished statesmen's address is sufficient to show the trend of sentiment in Minnesota at that time:

"The people of Minnesota, Mr. President, have stood firmly by you and your administration. They have given both you and it their cordial support. They have not violated any law. They have borne their sufferings with patience, such as few people have ever exhibited under extreme trials. These Indians are now at their mercy; but our people have not risen to slaughter because they believed the President would deal with them justly. We protest against the pardon because if they are not executed the people of Minnesota will dispose of these wretches without law. These two peoples cannot live together. We do not wish to see mob law inaugurated in Minnesota, as it certainly will be if you force the people to it. We tremble at the approach of such a condition of things in our state.

"You can give us peace or you can give us lawless violence. We pray you, sir, as in view of all we have suffered, and the danger that still awaits us, let the law be executed. Let justice be done to our people."

Early in December, 1862, while the final decision of the President was delayed, the valley towns of Minnesota, led off by the city of St. Paul, held meetings addressed by the most intelligent speakers of various locations. Among other speakers was United States District Attorney George A. Nouse, of Minnesota, who framed a petition as follows:

"To the President of the United States—We, the citizens of St. Paul, in the state of Minnesota, respectfully represent that we have heard with regret the reports of an intention on the part of the United States government to dismiss without punishment the Sioux warriors captured by our soldiers; and further allow the several tribes of Indians lately located upon reservations within the state to remain upon the reservations.

"Against any such policy we respectfully protest in all firmness. The history of this continent presents no event that can compare with the late Sioux massacre outbreak in wanton, unprovoked and fiendish cruelty. All that we have heard of the Indian warfare in the early history of this country is tame in contrast with the atrocities of this late massacre. Without warning, in cold blood, beginning with the murder of their best friends, the whole body of the annuity Sioux Indians commenced a deliberate scheme to

exterminate every white person upon the land once occupied by them and by them long ago sold to the United States. In carrying out this bloody scheme they have spared neither age nor sex, only reserving, for the gratification of their brutal lust, the few white women whom the rifle, tomahawk and the scalping knife spared. Nor did their fiendish barbarities cease with death, as the mutilated corpses of their victims, disemboweled, cut limb from limb, or chopped into fragments, will testify. These cruelties, too, were in many cases preceded by a pretense of friendship; and in many instances the victims of more than murderers were shot down in cold blood as soon as their backs were turned, after a cordial shaking of the hand and loud professions of friendship on the part of the murderers.

"We ask that the same judgment should be passed and executed upon these deliberate murderers, these ravishers, these mutilators of their murdered victims, that would be passed upon white men guilty of the same offense. We ask this not alone for vengeance, but much more as a matter of future safety for our border settlers.

"We further ask that these savages be removed from close proximity to our settlements, to such a distance and such isolation as shall make the people of this state safe from their future attacks."

The final decision of the President, on the 17th of December, 1862, ordering the execution of thirty-nine of the three hundred condemned murderers, disappointed the people of Minnesota. The thirty-nine were to be hung at Mankato on the 26th of December—on Friday.

In pursuance to an act of Congress on the 22nd of April, 1863, and for the purpose of carrying it into execution, the remaining Indians were first taken from the state, on board the steamer "Favorite," carried down the Mississippi, and confined at Davenport, Iowa, where they remained, with only such privileges as are allowed to convicts in the penitentiary. In May, the same year, about two thousand Indians were sent to their reservations in the "land of the Dakotas." Then the 1863 military expedition removed the scattering bands from the borders of Minnesota.

FACTS CONCERNING THE FINAL EXECUTION.

Pictures of the execution of the thirty-eight Indians at Mankato in December, 1862, adorn the shops, public halls and residences of many hundred towns and cities in the great Northwest—almost as well known and often seen as "Custer's Last Fight.

Perhaps no better account of the execution and the crimes for which

the Indians executed were charged with can now be obtained than the account narrated by the editor of the *St. Peter Tribune*, he being present. He writes as follows:

Having been ordered to Mankato on business, we were included among witnesses of an execution, the most extensive which has ever been known in the United States, and in punishment of crimes the most atrocious and revolting. Our account must necessarily be brief, and we shall therefore only give such particulars as will prove of interest to our readers and for many of these we are indebted to the *Mankato Record*.

The day was remarkably pleasant for this season of the year, and at early dawn people began to arrive at Mankato on a new and—so far as Minnesota is concerned—unprecedented errand. The streets were already resounding to the tread of the soldiery and citizens, and both were evidently preparing for an event which will always be an important chapter in our history. The great square gallows, standing on the river bluff, showed readiness for the work it was to execute at a later hour of the day. At nine o'clock the military formed a girdle of bayonets around the gallows, and no citizen was permitted inside the enclosure. Captain Burt's company of the Seventh regiment conducted the execution of the following Indians found guilty of crimes charged by the military commission:

The-he-hdo-ne-cha (One who Forbids his House).—Engaged in the massacre; took a white woman prisoner and ravished her.

To-zoo, alias Plan-doo-ta (Red Otter).—Convicted of participating in the murder of Mr. Patwell, and of ravishing a young girl.

Wy-a-tah-ta-wa (His People).—Confessed to have participated in the murder of Mr. Patwell, and to have taken part in three battles.

Hin-han-shoon-ko-yag-ma-ne (One who walks clothed with an Owl's Tail).—Convicted of murder of Alexander Hunter, and having taken and had Mrs. Hunter as a prisoner until she was rescued from him by another Indian.

Ma-za-boon-doo (Iron Blowker).—Convicted of the murder of an old man and two children.

Wan-pa-doo-ta (Red Leaf).—Confessed that he was engaged in the massacre, and that he shot a white man.

Wa-he-kna (meaning unknown).—Convicted of murder.

Rwa-ma-ne (Tinkling Water).—Convicted of two murders.

Rda-in-yan-ka (Rattling Rounder).—Took a prominent part in all the battles, including the attack at New Ulm, leading and urging the Indians forward.

Do-wan-za (The Singer).—Convicted of the murder of a white woman, and of the design to ravish her daughter, who was wounded by him and killed by another Indian, before he carried his design into execution.

Ha-pan (Second Child).—Confessed that he was in all the battles and at the murder of Mr. Patwell, and that he aided in taking a white woman (Miss Williams) prisoner.

Shoon-ka-ska (White Dog).—Was the leader of the party that attacked Captain Marsh's company and was the man who detained Captain Marsh in conversation until the Indians crossed the river and surrounded the command and then gave them the signal to fire.

Toon-kan-e-chah-tah-ma-ne (One who walks by his Grandfather).—Said in presence of witnesses that he shot a man in an ox wagon, and was in several battles.

E-tay-doo-ta (Red Face).—Told witness that he killed Divoll and seven white persons across the river; that the second day after crossing the river he killed a man and a woman.

Am-da-cha (Broken to Pieces).—Took witness David Faribault prisoner, who says Am-da-cha shot two persons at his house.

Hay-pe-dan (The Third Child).—Cut Mrs. Thieler with a hatchet after she had been shot by another Indian, and fired many shots at the fort.

Mah-pe-o-ke-ne-jin (Who Stands on the Cloud).—Convicted of the murder of Antoine Young, and of participating in the murder of a white man and woman.

Henry Milord (A half-breed).—Convicted of participating in the murder of a white man and woman.

Chas-ka-dan (The First Born if a Son).—Convicted of shooting and cutting a woman who was with child.

Baptiste Campbell (A half-breed).—Confessed that he was one of the party who murdered a man and woman, and that he shot first.

Ta-tay-ka-gay (Wind Maker).—Convicted of murdering or of participating in the murder of Amos W. Huggins.

Ha-pin-kpa (The Tip of the Horn).—Convicted of the murder of Garvie.

Hypolite Ange (A half-breed).—Confesses that he was one of the party that murdered a white man, and that he fired at him.

No-Pay-Skin (One who does not Flee).—Convicted of participating in the massacre and boasted that he had killed nineteen persons.

Wa-kan-tan-ka (Great Spirit).—Convicted of the murder of a white man not named.

Toon-kan-ko-yag-ena-gin (One who stands clothed with his Grandfather).—Convicted of participating in the murder of a white man at the Big Woods.

Ma-ka-ta-e-ne-jin (One who Stands on the Earth).—Convicted of participating in the massacre near New Ulm, and encouraging the red men to do so.

Paza-koo-tay-wa-ne (One who walks prepared to Shoot).—Convicted of participating in the murder of eight white men.

To-tay-hde-dan (Wind comes Home).—Convicted of participating in the massacre at Beaver Creek, and of taking captive a white woman.

Wa-she-choon (Frenchman).—Convicted of the murder of Le Butt's son.

Aeche-ga (To Grow Upon).—Convicted of the murder of an old man and two girls.

Ho-tan-in-koo (Voice that Appears Coming).—Convicted of the murder of a man at Green Lake, admits that he struck him with an ax after he had been shot by others of the party.

Chay-tan-hoon-ka (The Parent Hawk).—Proved to have been one of the party that committed the massacre at Beaver Creek.

Chan-ka-hda (Near the Woods).—Is proven to have been one of the party and was present when Patwell was killed, and to have saved Mary Anderson, who had been wounded, from being killed and to have taken her prisoner.

O-ya-tay-a-koo (The Coming People).—Convicted of the murder of Patwell.

Ma-hoo-way-wa (He comes for Me).—Convicted of participating in the massacres at Travelers Home and of murdering a man on the road near there.

Wa-kin-yan-ne (Little Thunder).—Convicted of participating in the murder, near the Travelers Home, of an old man and two young girls and two boys.

Shas-ka.

THE EXECUTION.

At ten o'clock the prisoners ascended the steps of the gallows, as unconcerned as if they were going to a feast, and after reaching the platform commenced chanting one of their peculiar "he-ab's". Several were smoking, and continued to do so until the rope was cut and they were launched into eternity. One (Shas-ka) manifested his indifference or contempt by expos-

ing his person to the soldiers, and another by throwing his cigar at them and uttering some words which were not understood by those standing near him. The singing was kept up until the platform dropped, and the singular "thug" of the ropes furnished another style of music, and stilled their voices which seemed bold even in the very face of death.

A few showed signs of emotion after the rope had been adjusted, but a majority hardly noticed this part of the execution. Some even fixed the ropes around their own necks and persistently raised their caps from their faces, until their arms were paralyzed by the fatal plunge.

It was a strange, pitiful sight, but the conduct of the prisoners was enough to remove all feelings of pity in their behalf, and not one of the multitude of spectators expressed regret at the terrible death of these men who had been savages in life and remained apparently defiant or careless to the end.

THE FINAL SCENE.

When all was ready, Major Brown, signal officer, beat three distinct taps upon the drum. At the third stroke, William J. Duly, of the mounted scouts (who lost three children during the massacre) cut the rope, the drop fell and thirty-eight savage murderers were launched into eternity.

Some fears had been entertained as to the working of the drop, but it was successful. In a second all but one were suspended by the neck. The rope broke with one, and he fell to the ground, but his neck had been broken in the jerk and fall. He was instantly strung up again. The majority died easily, with scarcely a struggle. A few kicked savagely. We noticed two with clasped hands, remaining in the same position until cut down. Another old man nervously clutched for the hand of the one adjoining, just before the drop fell. As the drop fell a loud huzza went up from the soldiers and spectators.

Doctors Seignorette and Finch were detailed to examine the bodies, and after all signs of life had disappeared, communicated the death of the prisoners to the officer of the day. The bodies were then taken down.

Four teams were driven to the scaffold. The bodies were deposited in the wagons and an escort conveyed them to the place of burial. Company K, under Captain Burk, without arms, acting as a burial party. The place of burial was the low flat between Front street and the river, which was overgrown by swamp willows. The burial escort and guard were under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall.

It was generally understood that the prisoners had made a confession to the Rev. Mr. Riggs (the old Presbyterian missionary among the Indians). That gentleman has furnished reports of the conversation with them, but they are simply denials of the charges made at the trial before the military commission. Most of them acknowledged either to have been at the battles or present at some massacre, but said they only used tomahawks on those who had been killed by others, or they shot wide of the mark when compelled to shoot. They all seemed to indorse this sentiment: "Do not think that I killed anyone." But few Indians were present at the execution and not many half-breeds either. Among the number was one Winnebago chief (Baptiste), dressed in white men's clothes. He appeared deeply interested in all the proceedings, and hardly one movement escaped his notice.

PENSIONERS OF THE SIOUX UPRISING.

About 1902 the state of Minnesota passed an act by which all defenders at the time of the Indian massacre who were in any way injured or became afflicted by bodily ailment as a result of that war, subsequently, should receive a pension, which was fixed at twelve dollars per month. In many instances this small pension from the state has materially aided those who fought for their homes and families in 1862.

DR. B. H. HAYNES' CONTRIBUTION.

The files of the *Plainedealer*, published at St. James, has the following from the pen of Dr. Haynes, touching on the New Ulm massacre:

John Kasberger tells of seeing his father shot by a skulking band of Indians on the afternoon of August 16, 1862, near New Ulm. A neighbor named Hanley had ridden by shortly before and gave the warning that the Indians were coming. The elder Mr. Kasberger with a hired man and a yoke of oxen were engaged in stacking wheat. The warning was thought to be an idle rumor. A party of Indians approached the woods and fired a volley, killing Mr. Kasberger. They then fled. As they went they killed two hogs in a pen near the ambush. Mrs. Kasberger took her son of twelve years and a daughter of five, and securing some valuables hurried to New Ulm, two miles away. On their way to town they passed the still warm bodies of two people who had just been killed by the same band of Indians that had killed Mr. Kasberger. The Indians began their attack that even-

ing on New Ulm. At the end of three days, soldiers arrived from Ft. Snelling and the Indians withdrew.

The relator of this story, it is said, was the first white child born in the present limits of Brown county. His sister, now Mrs. Edman Rice, resides at St. Paul. An Indian named White Pigeon, warned Mrs. Kasberger several days before the massacre; she supposed the warning was false and only the result of too much "firewater." The same warning was given to another white woman by the Indians and with the same results. White Pigeon fought with the Indians against the whites and was finally killed in battle.

INDIANS' LAST RAID HERE.

In the spring of 1864 the Indians made another raid into this section and it was during this raid that Ole Boxrud was killed. There were some troops stationed at Ole Jorgenson's house, and Boxrud undertook to go there one evening to notify them that there were signs of the presence of Indians in the neighborhood. On the way he was attacked by Indians and shot in the back with an arrow which lodged between the joints of the vertebrae, causing his death. This was the last visit of the Indians in Watonwan county. The settlers who had fled before the tomahawk and the torch returned to their homes, and others soon came in to join them in the work of building up the country by peaceful industry, undisturbed by the war-whoop of the red man.

INDIANS AND THEIR PECULIAR CUSTOMS.

Before the whites took possession of this part of Minnesota, it was the home of the Indian. More especially will the reader of this volume be interested in knowing something concerning the tribes which lived here and took part in the great uprising of 1862. Those Indians all belonged to the Sioux or Dakota tribe. Those were divided into four great sub-divisions—Medawakonton, Wahpekuta, Wahpeton and Sisseton, and occupied a large territory west of the Mississippi; from the borders of Iowa along the Mississippi, up to the Minnesota, and stretching into the "Land of the Dakotas." One well posted in the customs and habits of these particular Indians wrote of them before Watonwan county was ever visited by its first settlers in this fashion:

They are, like most of the Indian tribes, of great bodily strength, a

slim and pleasing stature, and remarkable for their shrewdness and deceit. Their features are rather long, and they have dark, but not repulsive, complexions. They are continually wandering about, and consequently use for means of subsistence whatever Nature affords them. Fishing and hunting are their principal means of support. In the spring of the year they often make sugar and syrup from the juice of the maple and other trees, and during the summer they gather wild rice and berries. This work is done by the squaws. The Indian regards his wife as a slave, and he thinks it beneath his dignity to do hard work. When they travel, the women not only carry the papooses and baggage, but also lead the beasts of burden, which in the absence of a wagon or sled, carry the tepee, etc., upon their backs. He often compels her, though weighed down under a heavy burden, to carry even his gun, so that he can trot along with greater ease. When they find a place where fuel and water are convenient, or where hunting is good, the women will have to go to work and set up the tepee and bring in whatever is necessary except the game which he provides. A few so-called civilized Indians till the soil, but they seldom raise anything except corn and potatoes. These dress like the whites and they were formerly supplied by the government with farming implements, horses and cattle, etc. They are very proud of the dress of the whites, which in their case often consists of merely a high hat and a shirt. They are generally despised, however, by the real Indians, who treat every kind of head-dress with contempt except their own peculiar one, and whose only covering consists of a woollen blanket or a buffalo robe; and they live in tents or tepees. These prefer to dress gayly, cover themselves with all manner of trumpery and fold the skin of an animal around their body so as to look as much as possible like the animal itself. In summer they appear mostly in Adam's costume, with the additional gun and a pipe

THE VERSATILE INDIAN.

Their arms are bows and arrows, guns, knives and a sort of hatchet called a tomahawk. Their necessities of life are very few and simple. They never wash their meat and seem to have a dislike for all water except fire-water (whisky). Still, they admire a clean white shirt very much. A kettle, a few pots and the skins of animals compose all their furniture, and they eat their food, especially meat, half raw and devour even the entrails raw. Their appetite is prodigious. Whenever they obtain anything palat-

able they eat, and eat without regard to their real needs or the coming day. Hence, it not unfrequently happens that they are compelled to fast for days at a time. They are not much troubled with any disease except small-pox and their medicine men have in vain tried by all manner of sorceries and star-gazing exorcisms to banish the dreadful visitor. A cripple, lame, or deaf and dumb is seldom found. They love their ponies and keep a large number, if at all possible. But during the winter they lose a good many because in their improvidence they do not save any hay and having no barns or shelter for them the poor creatures perish from cold and starvation. They believe in a Great Spirit, Manitou, and hold a great deal of ceremony over their dead, but hang them up on a post exposed to the sun until they are dried up. Their romantic life, their fidelity, their friendship and strength of character, which some writers tell us about, make very pleasant sentimental reading—that is all. The Indian is always serious, seldom laughs or jokes and is an uncomfortable and mistrustful companion. He understands begging above all things. He never forgets an offense, but is very apt to forget acts of kindness, for which the year 1862 furnished ample proof. With the Indians revenge is a virtue. They practice polygamy. Their hospitality, however, is worthy of all praise. The stranger receives the best pelt for his bed and the host keeps up a warm fire with his own hands if the paleface happens to remain in his tent over night, during winter.

If you have never had an opportunity to see an Indian you may look at a gipsy; there is a great similarity between them; many of them show real artistic taste in the making of trinkets. They are skillful in the use of arms, keen in the chase and relentless in pursuing an enemy; love noisy musical instruments and they dance after their own fashion. Their natural senses are sharp and more fully developed than those of the whites. They are cruel in war and prefer deceit and strategem to an open battle. After a fight they scalp their dead enemies before they think of carrying off their booty; for they take great pride in taking a large number of scalps, because they indicate the number of enemies they have killed; they ornament their heads with feathers which they consider "wakan" (holy). They can endure more hardships than the whites and are wonderful runners, many of them being able to overtake a swift horse. In hiding their feelings and in self-control they can do wonders. They suffer pain with stolid indifference and their wounds heal quickly. To leave one of their dead in the hands of the enemy is looked upon as foreboding evil and the greatest ignominy that could happen to them.

INCIDENTS CONNECTED WITH THE INDIAN WAR.

In September or October, 1862, a war party of Sioux Indians attacked the white settlements north of Grogan, near Ft. Wilkin. Here they killed a woman named Peterson and captured two of her children, a small boy and a girl of eighteen years. They also killed a man named Person and captured his little boy. The three children were afterward traded to friendly Indians for ammunition. They were later returned to their friends by soldiers who had captured the Indians. News of the presence of Indians was soon brought to the Rosendale settlement. A messenger went from the Jorgenson farm to Madelia, to give the alarm. The Rosendale settlement lay along the river east of St. James, and comprised the following families: Mrs. Mariah Torsen, Herman Madson, Knute Larson, Halvar Knudson, Mads Boxrude, Hans Peterson, Otto Jenson and Ole Jorgenson.

After sending the warning to Madelia, Mr. Jorgenson mounted a horse and went to warn the settlers. At the William Knaak farm, then occupied by the Torsen family, he completed his round, and in company with Knute Knudson, then fourteen years of age, recrossed the river on foot, going northeast about forty rods to catch three loose horses belonging to Mr. Larson. He had seen the horses at this point when he came to warn the family. On his return the horses were gone. He and Knute were walking in a cow-path down the east side of the river when they heard two shots in the direction of the Torsen house. Knute looked about and saw an Indian running toward them from down the river. He warned Mr. Jorgenson and ran eastward into the tall grass and lay down. The Indian quickly fired, striking Mr. Jorgenson in the head. He fell unconscious. Another Indian came up and shot a bullet through the muscles of the left shoulder. This brought back consciousness. Mr. Jorgenson saw two Indians near, loading their guns. He got to his feet and walked away as rapidly as he could. The Indians slowly followed, stopping to look for the boy, Knute. They walked on either side of him. The face of one was painted red, and could be plainly seen as they passed. Knute heard them talking as they searched for him. Mr. Jorgenson walked up the river bluff, which is quite steep and about thirty feet high. When at the top and perhaps fifty yards from the Indians and Knute, he ran for a slough that was forty rods north, reached it and hid before the Indians knew that he was gone. They spent the remainder of the day trying to find him. He lay in the water with his

head exposed. Toward midnight he left the water because of the cold and cut grass to cover himself.

At the house the Indians made an attack, and the inmates, Mrs. Torson, her brother, Mr. Haroldson and George Knudson, ran to corn fields, George receiving a slight bullet wound in the flesh of one arm. While hiding from the Indians, Mrs. Torson had a good view of one of them. He was mounted on Mr. Jorgenson's horse and was riding about looking for their hiding place. He was an old acquaintance of the people of the settlement, who called him the "Beggar." The Indians took what they wished from the house, including a double-barreled gun. They also captured four horses, but left a team of oxen attached to a rack wagon, untouched. This was the last seen of them. They, with their prisoners and an ox team, made a rapid march to the neighborhood of Granite Falls.

At daybreak next morning Mr. Jorgenson started to go to Madelia. On the way he met soldiers. They surrounded him and prevented an attempt on his part to run away. They took him to a deserted house and found him food, then took him to Madelia. There his neighbor's daughter, Mary Larson, dressed his wounds and in a few weeks he was well, though both of his wounds were severe.

While the Indians were wading about in an attempt to find Mr. Jorgenson in the slough, Knute crawled half a mile and there lay in the grass. After dark he traveled a mile farther, but then stopped for fear of becoming lost. At daybreak he again started for Madelia, where he soon arrived and was surprised to see Mr. Jorgenson still alive, brought in by the soldiers. The others from the Torson farm arrived before he did. All the Rosendale settlers got safely to Madelia.

Some time after this raid, at the request of Mr. Jorgenson, a squad of from five to seven soldiers were quartered at his farm during the remainder of the Indian trouble. This gave the Rosendale settlers a place of refuge near at hand. They lived most of the time at the Jorgenson farm for the next two or three years. There were frequent alarms, but the settlers stayed and held this extreme frontier settlement to the end of the Indian trouble. Those now living in this county, who then lived in the Rosendale settlement are: Alice and Knute Knudson and sister, Mrs. K. Heling; George Jorgenson and sisters; Mrs. A. O. Strommen, Mrs. Lewis Christopherson, Mrs. Iver Olson, Mrs. Hans Thompson, also John and Henry Madson, with their mother now over eighty years of age.

Many of the old settlers will remember the Indian outbreak that took

place in the Rosendale settlement in the spring of 1863. As has been mentioned, the settlers had all moved into a house on the farm of Ole Jorgenson, father of Mrs. A. O. Strommen, for mutual protection. The soldiers slept in a house not far from that of the settlers. The settlers were awakened about twelve o'clock at night by the barking of the dogs and upon rising and looking out the windows saw that the Indians had surrounded the house. A young man by the name of Ole Burkerude volunteered to go to the camp to wake the soldiers. He was advised not to attempt such a risk, but considering it best he started. The next morning his body was found horribly mutilated. Two rifle and two arrow wounds were found on the body. The remains were placed in a rude wooden box and buried on the Ole Jorgenson farm. It is thought that the soldiers were scared and did not come out to help the young man and that he was killed on his way back to the settlement. After ten or twelve years of almost constant searching the body was finally unearthed and was taken up by Knute Jorgenson, Henry Motson and A. O. Strommen and placed in the Riverdale cemetery. Two arrow tips of steel were found lodged in his bones, one in the breast and one in the backbone. The young man was eighteen years of age at the time of his death and must be given credit for having great courage to go out alone and face such danger.

CHAPTER III.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

The first settlement by white men in this county was in 1855, when H. B. Sherman, T. Fitch and J. N. Barker settled in the territory now known as Watonwan county. They each staked off a claim and made the first permanent settlement in the county.

In 1856 the above pioneer band was added to by the arrival of C. M. Pomeroy, Elizabeth Olds, Ed. Taylor, Stephen P. Benjamin, John C. Sprague, James M. Hudson and Thomas Rutledge. (See township histories,

EARLY DEEDS AND LAND TRANSFERS.

The records of the register of deeds show the following early land transfers in Watonwan county:

William Griffith to Thomas P. Thomas, June 12, 1863, consideration, seven hundred dollars, for the southwest of the southeast quarter of section 21, township 107, range 30, Madelia civil township.

Theodore Leich to David Feddor, for consideration of forty dollars, lot No. 5 in the southwest quarter of section 13, Madelia township, between the lakes and consisted of three acres.

Henry Scholoman and wife to Luther E. Gove, July 1, 1864, land in section 9, Madelia township.

Daniel Buck and wife to Stephen G. Benjamin, June 6, 1864, southeast quarter of section 21, Madelia township.

D. Buck and wife, C. W. Taylor, June 2, 1864, in Madelia township, the northeast quarter of section 21, 107, range 30, Madelia township.

July 19, 1850, R. L. Sibley, executor of the will of the late Landon W. Sheppard, of Madelia, to John Travis, block No. 71, in the village of Madelia; consideration, six dollars.

TIMBER CLAIMS.

Under a wise provision of a Congressional act passed many years ago, there has come to stand in all of their beauty and value, many fine artificial

groves of timber within this county. "Tree claims," for a time, were more sought after out of the public domain here than were homesteads. The government gave the land, providing a certain number of trees were planted and found to be living at the end of five and eight years. Here the varieties were mostly confined to the rapid growing trees, such as willow, cottonwood, soft maple, box elder and walnut. The records of such timber culture tracts in this county, as shown in the register of deeds office, give the following list of such claims:

United States to John McCarthy, claim No. 156, at the Worthington land office, granted for the northeast quarter of section 12, Antrim township, March 12, 1886, signed by President Grover Cleveland.

United States to John Weager, from the Worthington land office, claim No. 236, for land in lots 9, 10 and 15, in section 6, Long Lake township—one hundred and sixty acres—granted by President Benjamin Harrison; signed April 17, 1890.

The United States to Sylvester S. Sulem, tree claim No. 63, from the Worthington land office, was granted by President Benjamin Harrison, July 30, 1889, and was laid on the northwest of the northwest quarter of section 6, in Odin township.

The United States to Paul Schneller, claim No. 176, at the land office at Marshall, the same being on the southwest quarter of section 2, South Branch township. It was signed by President Benjamin Harrison, November 24, 1890.

The United States to Merrell M. Clark, claim No. 306, at the Marshall land office, for land in the northwest of section 30, township 106, range 32 west. It was signed by Benjamin Harrison, December 30, 1890.

United States to E. R. West, claim No. 263, at the Worthington land office, for land in the southwest quarter of section 12, township 105, range 31. It was signed by President Benjamin Harrison, July 15, 1890.

The United States to William Koenig, claim No. 357, at the Marshall land office, and called for land in the north half of the northeast quarter of section 6, township 105, range 32. It was signed by President Benjamin Harrison, December 15, 1890.

The United States to heirs George W. Cory, deceased, at the Marshall land office, to a claim on the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 34, township 105, range 31, the same being issued and signed by President Benjamin Harrison, December 13, 1890.

The United States to George H. Herrick, a claim to the southeast

quarter of the southwest quarter of section 20, township 106, range 31 west, from the land office at Marshall, and issued by President Grover Cleveland, August 8, 1893. This claim is No. 903.

The United States to Albert D. King, at the Marshall land office, claim to the west half of the southwest quarter of section 32, township 106, range 32 west, issued and signed by President Grover Cleveland, December 15, 1894, and bearing No. 1,147.

The United States to Gerhard Penner, a claim to the southwest quarter of section 4, township 106, range 433 west, issued from the land office at Marshall, and signed by President Benjamin Harrison; No. 608, and date of issue, April 17, 1892.

The United States to John Johnson, claim No. 739, at the Marshall land office, issued by President Benjamin Harrison, and signed on September 2, 1892, the timber claim being situated in lot 5, township 107, range 33 west.

The United States to Frank Fowler, from the Tracy land office, claim No. 143, to the south half of the northwest quarter of section 8, township 106, range 31 west, was signed by President Benjamin Harrison, and dated March 25, 1890.

The United States to Jens Olson Hereid for claim No. 89, to lands in the south half of the southeast quarter of section 8, township 105, range 32 west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, and signed November 13, 1884, the same being entered at the Worthington land office.

The United States to Daniel I. Hudson, a claim numbered 1,264, for the southeast quarter of section 26, township 105, range 31 west, at the Marshall land office. It was issued and signed by President William McKinley, May 3, 1897.

The United States to Mark H. McDonough, for claim No. 1,319, at the Marshall land office, for the south half of the southwest quarter of section 32, township 107, range 33 west. This was issued and signed by President William McKinley, April 6, 1893.

The United States to John Bisbee, claim No. 784, for the north half of the southeast quarter of section 14, township 106, range 30 west. This was issued by President Benjamin Harrison, December 20, 1892.

The United States to John C. West, claim No. 1,368, at the Marshall land office, for the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 10, township 105, range 31 west, issued by President William McKinley, and signed by him June 22, 1890.

SCHOOL LANDS PURCHASED.

Many of the later settlers in Watonwan county took advantage of the state school lands, which had been set apart by the government when Minnesota was yet a territory, for school purposes, and held to be parceled out by the territory and state of Minnesota, at will. These lands usually sold for about five to seven dollars an acre and the purchaser was given as long as twenty years in which to pay for the same. Hundreds of such tracts were taken up in this county, the money when paid in going to the school fund. These lands, according to the provision of Congress, included every sixteenth and thirty-sixth section in the townships of the state. The books of the register of deeds in this county disclose the fact that one hundred and sixty-three tracts of school lands, of greater or less acreage, were sold, the record of such transactions being found in the record book in which such transactions are usually kept. These patents are all signed by the governor of the state.

EARLY MISCELLANEOUS DEEDS.

Among the earlier deeds made in this county may be found recorded these: John Kirk to Bernard O. Hempffer, June 4, 1861, sections 18 and 19, of township 105, range 31 west.

Amon K. Dohl and wife to S. N. Oleson, November 1, 1861, the northwest half of the northwest quarter of section 29, township 107, range 30 west, for seventy dollars consideration.

Archibald Armstrong to John Armstrong, December 28, 1861, for four hundred and fifty dollars, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 1, and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 12, township 107, range 31 west.

G. W. Lamberton to C. M. Pomeroy, April 10, 1861, section 26, township 107, range 30 west.

John C. Sprague and wife to H. P. Gilbert, April 23, 1862, the southeast quarter of section 28, township 107, range 30 west.

SETTLEMENT NOTES.

The early settlement of this county was effected, as has been observed by the foregoing statements, first in and around the village of Madelia, the first seat of justice in the county, where there was a good stream and water

power, timber, etc., to begin development with. First, lands were entered at government prices; next came the chance to secure homesteads and tree claims of the government; then the state school lands came into market, as did the thousands of acres of railroad land. Not until the advent of the railroad did the county settle up thickly in all townships, but it was confined to lands near the eastern part, around streams and lakes.

The Scandinavian people were the first foreigners to come in great numbers for the purpose of settlement.

FIRST SETTLERS IN WATONWAN COUNTY.

The northern part of Watonwan county was first settled by Germans, Norwegians and Swedes; the central part by Americans, coming from Indiana and Wisconsin, and the Irish. The Scandinavians at this time were newcomers to this country. There were no schools or churches, but as soon as the new settlers got started, especially the Scandinavians, they established schools and churches of their own. The first settlers in St. James were the Norwegians and Catholics. The township of Adrian was first settled by the Germans. When a school was established in these townships the building was usually a sod shanty and the school term ran three months. The first teachers were all men, as the hardships and the responsibilities were too much for women. Mr. H. H. Higgins was one of the first school teachers in the county. He taught in Adrian for two years, after which he was elected sheriff of Watonwan county. George Knutzen was one of the first teachers at Madelia. Afterwards he was elected county auditor and served in this capacity for twenty years. Thomas Thurston had charge of the schools in Riverdale and Olsendale townships for several years, after which he was elected to the office of county recorder and served for twenty years. After serving their times in the county offices, both Knutzen and Thurston were elected to the state Legislature. The reason these men could not stay in the teaching profession was because of the low wages. The salary was only about twenty-five dollars per month. Board and room cost them one dollar per week.

The first store in St. James was owned by E. R. McLean. He hauled his first load of goods from Madelia with an ox team. The first hotel was the St. James. The building stood where the Boston Hotel stands today, and was owned by the railroad and run by Captain Meyer. About ten years after the building was sold to Mr. Gibbs, who added to and remodeled the structure into its present form.

CHAPTER IV.

ORGANIZATION AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Watonwan county was organized in April, 1861, but it had really been created by act of the Minnesota Legislature, dated February 25, 1860, which act also fixed the county seat at Madelia. It is situated in the center of the second tier of counties north of the Iowa line. The first county commissioners were: J. F. Ferber, C. M. Pomeroy and Ole Jargenson; these were by appointment, and at the election held in the fall of 1861, the following officers were duly elected, the election being held at Madelia: John Travis, probate judge; John Chase, sheriff; Charles G. Mullen, auditor; C. M. Pomeroy, treasurer; Joseph Flanders, recorder of deeds; Daniel Bush, county attorney; Notts Jenson, coroner; Salvor Torgenson, Lewis Varwick and Thomas Rutledge, county commissioners.

The county derived its name from a civil township by that name, in Blue Earth county, when that county and Watonwan were all in one, thus, "Watonwan township, Blue Earth county, Minnesota," became Watonwan county, Minnesota. This whole territory at one time belonged to Brown county, and extended as far south as the mouth of the Big Sioux river, at Sioux City, Iowa, and west bounds without limit, almost. But with the settling of southern Minnesota, county after county was cut off and made separate sub-divisions of the state. The name Watonwan is Indian dialect. The Watonwan river was perhaps the first natural object within this county that was known by the word.

The area of the county is four hundred and thirty-five and forty-five one hundredths square miles, or two hundred and seventy-eight thousand six hundred and eighty-nine acres, of which two hundred and seventy-seven thousand are land and sixteen hundred and thirty eight acres are water. The land surface is divided into twelve hundred and sixty-nine farms.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS.

On February 13, 1861, appears the first entry in Book "A" of commissioner's records for Watonwan county: "The commissioners met at the house of J. F. Furber at ten o'clock in the forenoon the thirteenth day of

February, 1861, for the purpose of electing county officers for Watonwan county, whereupon J. F. Furber was elected chairman and N. Jensen, clerk, pro tem; after being duly qualified they proceeded to ballot for county auditor. H. P. Gilbert received a majority and was declared elected auditor.

"For recorder of deeds J. L. Taylor received a majority and was declared elected. For county treasurer, B. O. Rampfer received a majority and was declared elected treasurer. For judge of probate, J. Flanders, having received a majority of the votes, was duly declared elected. For sheriff, C. G. Mullen, receiving the largest number of votes, was declared elected. For coroner, Caleb Leavitt received a majority of the votes cast and was declared elected. For county surveyor, J. Leavitt having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared elected.

"On motion of C. M. Pomeroy the board adjourned to meet at the house of H. P. Gilbert, on Saturday, the 16th day of February, 1861.

"(Signed) NOTTO JENSEN, Clerk, pro tem.

"I hereby certify that this is an exact copy of the original minutes.

"C. G. MULLEN, County Auditor."

The commissioners failed to meet on the 16th of February, but did assemble on March 26th at the house of H. P. Gilbert. The first act in a business sense was to fix the salary of the county auditor, the same being placed at thirty-five dollars per year.

H. P. Gilbert was called in pursuance of his appointment and qualified as county auditor. At the afternoon session Joseph Flanders and B. O. Rempfer failing to appear and qualify, the board proceeded to fill the vacancies for the offices of probate judge and county treasurer, respectively. The first ballot for county treasurer resulted unanimously in the choice of C. G. Mullen, and his appointment for the office of sheriff was then changed for that of treasurer of the county and he duly qualified according to law.

Notto Jensen was then balloted for as judge of probate and received every vote of the commissioners, and was declared elected that office. He then came in and was qualified according to law.

Jonathan Leavitt was balloted for as sheriff and received a unanimous vote of the commissioners present and was declared elected and immediately qualified according to law.

These minutes were taken down on loose slips of paper, but were certified to later in book form and signed as follows:

"I hereby certify that this is an exact copy of the original as recorded by Auditor Gilbert of that date.

"(Signed)

C. G. MULLEN, County Auditor."

Session of September 3, 1861: On motion of J. T. Furber, C. M. Pomeroy was chosen chairman of the commissioner's board. The following oaths were then administered by the clerk of the board, H. P. Gilbert: "To J. T. Furber, C. M. Pomeroy and Ole Jorgensen, you solemnly swear that you will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the board of equalization of taxes in and for the county of Watonwan county, according to the best of your ability—so help you, God."

The above oath was then administered to the clerk (H. P. Gilbert) by C. M. Pomeroy (justice of the peace), whereupon the board then proceeded to regular business.

FIRST BUSINESS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The first business of the county commissioners, after having fully perfected the organization of the board, was to look into the merits of an application of C. Leavitt & Company, who wanted the assessment on their mill property cut from nineteen hundred to twelve hundred dollars, and this was finally allowed. It was at this meeting that David Wilcox was appointed county attorney. Also in the matter of tax levy the board, on motion of C. M. Pomeroy, voted to raise three mills on the dollar to defray county expenses. On motion of Ole Jorgensen, a mill and three-fourths on the dollar was levied for township purposes.

In January, 1862, the chairman of the commissioners' board was Thomas Rutledge, who was nominated by Louis Vorweek. The county auditor was ordered to send for all the books belonging to Watonwan county. It will be observed that the county had a small business to transact at that early date, for at the January meeting that year the commissioners issued an order to pay the county's expenses, which only amounted to thirty-five dollars and twenty-four cents. The auditor's salary was then to pay for the needed books in which to record the business transactions, the fixed for the ensuing year at thirty-five dollars. It was resolved to appropriate the first twenty-five dollars that came into the treasury of the county register of deeds needing the most of the books required. This became necessary, as the records of this county had to be transcribed from the books in Brown county, of which this county had formerly been a part. It appears from the record that in January, 1862, the board authorized the county auditor to purchase two hundred dollars worth of record books for use of the auditor and treasurer. At the meeting held on January 15, 1862, the auditor was ordered to purchase a seal for the county. Up to this time

the proceedings of the county commissioner had been kept on loose sheets of paper for want of record books, but when the new books arrived these commissioners' records were carefully recorded as sworn to, being transcripts from such loose sheets.

May, 1863.—The members of the board present were, H. P. Gilbert, H. Schwarble, Jens Torsen, with C. M. Mullen, clerk. Mr. Gilbert was chosen chairman. They proceeded to appoint a school superintendent for Madelia township in the person of C. G. Mullen. John Flanders was appointed probate judge in place of J. Travis, who failed to qualify after he had been elected. The county auditor was authorized to write to the county auditor of Brown county to come and settle, as there was money belonging to Brown county here.

MILITIA OFFICERS APPOINTED.

On May 19, 1863, the county commissioners met for the purpose of appointing officers for the state militia. In balloting for captain, P. D. Rutledge received a majority of the votes. For first lieutenant, W. C. Farnesworth received the entire vote and was declared elected. For second lieutenant, Jens Torson was elected. Jens Torson and H. P. Gilbert were authorized to go after the guns, ammunition and accouterments for the military company. The day fixed for the meeting of the company was Thursday, June 4, 1863.

October 5, 1863.—At the meeting of the county commissioners on this date, there was a large amount of business relating to school and road districts; much of these items were in a tangled and unsatisfactory condition and had to be adjusted as best they could be by the board. The payment for county record books was brought up but laid over for the reason that no taxes had been levied for that special purpose and the record says it was deferred until "a more convenient season."

At the same meeting claims against the county were audited as follows: May 5, 1863, Jens Torson, services as county commissioner, \$2; May 29, 1863, one-half day organizing Watonwan county, \$1; May 30, 1863, going after arms for state militia, \$4; May 31, 1863, team for carrying arms, \$2; June 19, one-half day presiding at election, \$1; total, \$10.

Similar bills were presented and allowed to Henry Schwables, C. G. Mullen and H. P. Gilbert. At this session the county auditor handed in his resignation, but it was not accepted by the county commissioners.

February 1, 1864. This seems to have been the next board meeting

after the one noted above. This time they met at the house of John Travis. J. L. Stark was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the county auditor, and H. P. Gilbert was elected chairman of the commissioners.

A motion was made to allow a bounty of fifty dollars be paid to volunteers who had enlisted in the services of the United States since the 15th of December, 1863, in Watonwan county. Another motion was made to give a bounty of seventy-five dollars to volunteers who may enlist in the services of the United States and be credited to Watonwan county, Minnesota, on or before March 5, 1864.

Josiah L. Stark was appointed school examiner for that year at this session of the board of commissioners. The resignation of County Commissioner Joseph Flanders was accepted and it was ordered that he be appointed as county auditor until the next annual election.

On August 13, 1864, a motion was made and passed as follows: "That provided enough would enlist to the credit of Watonwan county to free the county from the draft to be made on September 5, 1864, that a bounty of one hundred and fifty dollars be given."

August 25, 1864—Present, H. P. Gilbert and William Busser, and they passed an act striking out the conditions in an act passed August 13th and amending the act so as to read as follows: "That a bounty of one hundred and fifty dollars be paid anyone entering the service credited to Watonwan county."

September, 1864—Commissioners met at office of county auditor. Members present, H. P. Gilbert, J. T. Furber. At this session it was ordered that the salary of the county auditor be fixed at fifty dollars per year. Ordered that a mill and a half tax be levied to pay for books purchased for the use of the county. Ordered to raise \$650 to pay the county orders issued to the United States volunteers.

February, 1865—Members of the board present, H. P. Gilbert, J. T. Furber and Chandler Farnsworth. Not having the funds with which to pay for the county record books purchased in 1862, the bill had run until 1865 at ten per cent. interest, making the bill when paid \$99.19 instead of \$77.25, as originally invoiced at. The county auditor's salary was raised at this meeting to \$175 per year, he to furnish his own stationery and postage.

May 6, 1865—Board of commissioners met and consisted of the following members: Gilbert, Furber and Farnsworth. At this session Hart Montgomery was elected judge of probate.

September, 1865—At this session E. M. Sprague was appointed school examiner. A two-mill tax was levied at this meeting for county school purposes. Also a tax sufficient to raise \$200 was levied with which to purchase bloodhounds for the county's use.

January, 1866—Members present: Bernard O. Kempfer (chairman), John C. Sprague and Torson C. Levey. Bonds were furnished by P. D. Rutledge, county surveyor. Hart Montgomery furnished his bonds as judge of probate and one from E. M. Sprague, as sheriff. Ordered that the bloodhounds belonging to the county be sold for whatever they will bring and the proceeds applied to the special dog tax. Ordered that the auditor's salary be raised to \$200 per year, he to find all postage and stationery.

June 26, 1866—The county commissioners were still meeting at Madelia. Members present: Bernard O. Kempfer and John C. Sprague. They appointed Chancellor Farnsworth and A. J. Nicholson as appraisers of the school lands for and on behalf of the people of the county of Watonwan.

January, 1867—The commissioners resolved to look into the poor question of the county, and finally appointed the county auditor as a committee to handle the relief for this class of citizens.

At another meeting that month the members present were: Commissioners Kempfer, Levey and J. K. Webster. A petition was presented the board for the organization of a new civil township; also a remonstrance against such new organization. It was asked that such proposed township be named Bloomington. The board agreed to leave this to Joseph Flanders and B. O. Kempfer. The township was ordered organized and the name was fixed as "York." This subsequently became Antrim township.

January, 1868—The commissioners who met were A. J. Nicholson, Ole Howe and John K. Webster. Bonds of the various county officials were presented and accepted by the commissioners at this session.

March, 1868—The board met and gave out the following financial statement of Watonwan county as follows: Total amount of county fund, \$214.12; special county fund, \$88.69; county poor fund, \$131.63; total, \$434.44. Liabilities, \$232.25. Balance in favor of county, \$202.19.

In March, 1868, township 105, ranges 32 and 33, was created into Long Lake civil township; also township 106, range 30, was created into Wakefield township.

TROUBLES OF A TREASURER.

March, 1868—In session the commissioners passed this resolution: "Resolved that the interests of the county require that the office of county treasurer shall be removed to the Yates building. Therefore, be it resolved that the county treasurer be instructed to remove his said office to the above mentioned place, and that the auditor serve a copy of the above resolution on the said county treasurer." At this meeting of the board it was ordered that eight copies of the Minnesota code be purchased for the use of Watonwan county.

April 15, 1868—The proceedings show that County Treasurer G. W. Yates, who had been elected, failed to qualify in the legal time limit provided, so the old county treasurer, Thomas Rutledge, refused to give up the office. The minutes show the following concerning this affair: "Resolved, that the interests of the county require that Thomas Rutledge, county treasurer, should give additional bonds and that the auditor be instructed to serve a copy of these resolutions on said county treasurer." On motion this resolution was adopted at a special session on April 15, 1868: "Be it resolved that we recognize George W. Yates as the rightful and legally qualified treasurer of Watonwan county. And furthermore, that we denounce and disapprove of the willful attempt of Thomas Rutledge, late treasurer, to retain possession of the books and papers and moneys pertaining to said office, against the express will of the people of Watonwan county, and the manifest injury of said George W. Yates and in opposition to law and justice. And furthermore, to save time and expenses convening another special session of the board to appoint to fill vacancy, be it resolved, that if, by any technical construction of law, the said G. W. Yates be not entitled to such office of county treasurer then the office is vacant and to fill such vacancy we do hereby by the power vested in us by the statutes in such cases provided, as board of county commissioners of Watonwan county, appoint G. W. Yates to fill such vacancy and that Thomas Rutledge be requested to immediately transfer to him all books, papers and moneys, etc., belonging to this county of Watonwan as pertaining to the office of county treasurer."

September, 1868—At the session of the board of county commissioners, the name of "Wakefield" township be changed to "Fieldon." At this meeting, under a new state law, the county commissioners organized three commissioners' districts in this county. Madelia township was to be dis-

trict No. 1; Antrim and Fieldon in district No. 2; and Long Lake township in district No. 3.

January, 1869—A new civil township, known as "Drewsville," was created out of congressional township 105, range 31. This was later changed to South Branch. At this session of the board the commissioners ordered the construction of a home-wood ferry-boat for the Watonwan river at the village of Madelia. The same was not to exceed in cost two hundred dollars. A seven-mill tax was levied at this time, to be payable in 1870, for the purpose of building county offices.

November, 1869—The board organized a new civil township out of congressional township 107, range 33, and on petition of George A. Bradford it was called "Riverdale." Bonds of the various county officers were approved at this session.

January, 1870—The commissioners fixed the ferry-boat fees at Madelia at: Passengers on foot, five cents each way; teams, ten cents each way, if living in the county; teams outside the county to be charged twenty-five cents.

March, 1870—The board of commissioners created the civil township of "St. James." It constituted congressional township 106, ranges 32 and 33. At the same session of the board of commissioners, the register of deeds was authorized to procure of the St. Paul Pioneer Press Company, a deed record book at a cost not exceeding twenty dollars. The county auditor was also given authority by the commissioners to procure a fire-proof safe for the county, providing the expense did not exceed four hundred and fifty dollars. At this session the board made the following public statement of the county's finances:

RESOURCES.

Cash on hand March 8, 1869	\$ 223.73
Amount collected for year	920.00
Total	<u>\$1,143.82</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Abatements of tax collections	\$ 1.60
Redeemed county orders	791.72
County treasurer's fees	41.88
Tax receipts	<u>2.50</u>
Total	<u>\$ 837.70</u>

ASSETS.

Cash on hand -----	\$ 306.12
Amount due on duplicates of 1869-----	631.68
Amount due on duplicates of 1868 -----	129.57
Amount due on duplicates of 1867-----	15.02
Amount due on duplicates of 1866-----	2.60
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Total -----	\$ 984.99
Liabilities in outstanding orders -----	794.92
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Assets over liabilities -----	\$ 190.07

At the August term in 1870, the bill of Doctor Stoddard for medical fees for the month of July was twenty dollars and it was ordered paid from the poor fund.

September, 1870—The commissioners created the civil township of North Branch, out of congressional township 107, ranges 32 and 33, from the west portion of Riverdale township. Later in the same month the name was changed by the commissioners to "Dexter." It was at this meeting that the official bonds of the various newly elected county officers were approved by the board.

March, 1871—The board present consisted of the following members: H. Morrill, William S. Addsmund and Morris Bradford. At this session the commissioners made a new civil township, "Springfield," out of congressional township 106, range 31, and in April, that year, it was changed to "Rosendale."

June, 1871—The commissioners made Adrian township out of congressional township 107, range 33, and the first election was to be held on July 13, 1871, at the house of Volney DeWitt. County officers' bonds that had not already been approved by the county board, were attended to at this session.

January, 1872—Other county officers' bonds were approved by the board at this meeting and a new township created out of congressional township 106, range 33, the same being named Butterfield. Also another made out of township 105, range 33, and styled Odin.

The commissioners that year were Messrs. Morrill, Bradford and Pickler. The records disclose but little of general interest in the business transacted that year, outside the usual routine of school and road affairs. The same was true of the year 1873.

January, 1874—With the meeting of the county board in 1874 we find Commissioners Morrill, Lambert, Toothaker, Marvin and Pona present. They proceeded to approve of the bonds furnished by the various newly elected county officers. A resolution regarding mixing in the "county seat fight" reads as follows: "Resolved, We will not defend the county seat contest at the expense of the county." They also ordered a supply of wood for county use, not to exceed twenty-five dollars in value. The exhibit made at that date of the county's financial condition showed cash on hand, February 28, 1873, \$55.51; county orders redeemed during the year ending March 1, 1874, \$2,002.01; cash on hand, February 28, 1874, \$14.76; assets for that date, \$5,174.61; liabilities, at that date, over assets, \$3,065.74.

In 1874 the valuation of assessed property was given out by the board to amount to \$582,518. The total number of persons assessed in the county was eight hundred and forty-five. Six mills on the dollar on all property was levied for general county purposes. In the autumn of 1874 the board of county commissioners appropriated money with which to purchase two hundred bushels of corn, or its equivalent in corn meal, for the unfortunate poor of Watonwan county.

January, 1875—At the commissioners' meeting in the first week of this year, the commissioners were Messrs. Morrill, Lambert, Toothaker, Corbin, Mellgren. The county treasurer gave bonds amounting to twelve thousand dollars. Another resolution of this month's session was as follows: "Whereas, we have reason to believe that there will be a small amount of business liable to come before the district court at the term to be held in Watonwan county next February; therefore, in view of the destitution of the people by reason of the grasshopper raid, be it resolved that the judge of the said court adjourn the term for one year.

"(Signed)

JOSEPH FLANDERS, County Auditor."

March, 1875—The minute book of the commissioners and county auditor has this entry about the date just given: "The annual session of the board of county commissioners, which should have been held this day, went by default in consequence of a fearful snow storm, so much so that there was no one of the commissioners present."

July, 1875—The commissioners sitting as a board of equalization in this session gave out the following as the assessed valuations to obtain during that year: Class No. 1—Horses under three years of age, twenty dollars; horses over three years of age, fifty dollars. Class No. 2—Cattle under two years of age, five dollars; cows over two years of age, twelve

dollars; other cattle, eighteen dollars. Class No. 3—Mules, fifty dollars. Class No. 4—Sheep, per head, one dollar. Class No. 5—Hogs, per head, two dollars and sixty cents. Class No. 6—Wagons and carriages, twenty dollars. Class No. 7—Sewing or knitting machines, twenty-five dollars. Class No. 8—Watches and clocks, three and a half dollars. Class No. 9—Organs and melodians, fifty dollars. Class No. 10—Pianos, one hundred dollars. Class No. 30—"Homestead property," in Long Lake, South Branch, St. James, Riverdale, Rosendale, Antrim and Fieldon, at \$1.75 per acre; in Odin, Butterfield, Adrian and Nelson, at \$1.50 per acre.

At a further meeting, July, 1875, the board of county commissioners offered a reward of fifty dollars for the detection and final conviction of any person who should set a prairie fire between July, 1875, and July, 1876.

January, 1876—At a meeting of the board at this date the members were as follow: Messrs. Corbin, Toothaker, Mellgren, John Burns and Theodore Lambert. They approved the bonds of newly-elected county officials and selected a "county paper," in which contest the *Record* was successful. But it is found that in June this act was rescinded and the *Madelia Times* was made the official newspaper of Watonwan county. That year the delinquent tax list was published in the *Madelia Times* at five cents a description, and this made the amount of fifty-three dollars for the year.

The general county fund called for four thousand dollars in 1876; also one mill per dollar for general school fund purposes. The proceedings show that there was a balance on hand December 25, 1876, of \$1,303.07, and assets and liabilities amounting to \$8,320.97.

March, 1877—This was the period in which state and county aid had to be rendered those who lost everything by reason of the grasshopper scourge. The minutes of the commissioners show that seventy-odd persons received seed grain under a special act of the Minnesota Legislature.

COUNTY EXPENSES.

The published list of county expenses in this county in 1877 was as follows: Salaries, \$2,400; fees, \$60; grand jury, \$88; petit jury, \$250; justice of peace expense, \$50; report of births and deaths, \$48; blank books and blanks, \$200; miscellaneous items, \$364. The total was \$4,000. The general school fund was covered by a one-mill tax on the dollar, levied that year.

That year this county received from the state, under the act of Febru-

ary, 1877, cash for the purchase of seed grain for the grasshopper sufferers to the amount of \$798. The bill reads: "Bought five hundred and fifty-five bushels of wheat at \$1.35 per bushel, equal to \$749.25; freight on same to St. James, \$16.65; loading car, \$1.50; cash on hand not used, \$3.00. The fees collected by the clerk of the district court in 1877 was \$719; by the register of deeds, \$424; by the sheriff, \$426.

MORE AID TO FARMERS.

In February, 1878, the Minnesota Legislature passed an act for the immediate relief of farmers who were unable to secure seed grain in consequence of the grasshopper raid of 1877 through this section of the state. On March 5 the county commissioners of Watonwan county met to apportion out the seed grain purchased by the state for the farmers in this county. They each had to personally make a formal application and show their absolute needs before they could receive the coveted seed grain. This list of persons receiving seed is here inserted in the annals of the county, showing, as it does, to what straits the early settlers were put in the seventies. Many of the men and their descendants still live within the county and large numbers became well circumstanced after the county had settled up, after railroads had made their advent and after drought and grasshopper raids were things of the past. It should be understood that both wheat and oats were provided in amounts agreed upon by the destitute and the county board:

Applicants.	Bushels		Applicants.	Bushels	
	Wheat.	Oats.		Wheat.	Oats.
J. B. Backes	25	25	John Johnson	20	-
Martha Halvorson	30	5	Peter Peterson, Sr.	40	50
Ole Hanson	50	15	Lewis Nelson	25	5
John Carlson	25	4	Thorston Thorston	30	50
T. A. Johnson	15	--	Andrew Anderson	20	--
Nels Halvorson	30	--	August Carlson	16	--
Cal. Halvorson	30	--	A. P. Anderson	10	--
Paul Halvorson	25	--	Erick Calson	30	--
John Olson	25	--	Andrew Erickson	30	15
John Paulson	20	4	Martin Halvorson	--	50
Martin Jargenson	15	5	Peter Freeman	15	--
John Cole	22	10	Casper Anderson	20	--
S. Johnson	10	10	Swan Martin	20	10
John Sjoquest	15	--	Swan Anderson	20	2
John Swanson	15	5	Siver Oleson	30	--
Jonas Lindquist	30	15	Andrew Knudson	10	--
Hans Oleson	60	20	Christ Hanson	10	5

Applicants.	Bushels		Applicants.	Bushels	
	Wheat.	Oats.		Wheat.	Oats.
Chaney Beal	--	25	J. D. Johnston	25	25
Andrew Larson	30	6	L. S. Lewis	20	--
D. H. Forsyth	45	37	Allen Rice	6	30
Nels Anderson	10	--	J. Davison	25	15
Andrew Johnson	15	--	Joseph Rice	15	--
J. M. Swanson	30	15	C. C. Waste	--	25
Joel Parker	24	14	F. Peits	30	--
W. H. Jenkins	18	--	James Gelaspie	75	--
Conrad Shafer	15	--	J. M. Travis	50	--
William Arnd	--	30	William McMullen	20	--
P. A. Gustavson	15	15	E. D. Miller	20	20
E. Lofgren	15	--	Tim Larkins	30	--
P. A. Kinney	30	20	John Sullivan	20	--
Swan Englin	30	15	William S. James	20	--
John Herneman	120	40	Henry Struss	40	40
Charles Warner	10	--	Robert Duvar	10	25
J. A. Peterson	20	--	William Sloan	20	--
Jonas Nelson	15	--	J. B. Rhoades	22	22
M. B. Foster	40	15	B. A. Town	15	15
Hans Anderson	20	--	Herman Halvorson	13	--
Pat Currey	45	--	Mike Gall	15	--
Fred Shumas	25	30	John Folley	15	--
Swan Nelson	20	--	Peter Rock	15	--
Lewis Nelson	18	5	H. H. Thompson	10	--
Martin Peterson	20	--	Thor Thorson	20	20
Andrew Currey	28	--	Ed Hewitt	20	40
Andrew Swanson	15	--	John Colman	25	10
Rasmus Johnson	20	--	Myron Curtis	--	30
A. E. Loper	37	--	William Barge	35	--
J. A. Lee	15	--	Abner Denman	37	30
James Hammil	50	--	Arthur Hart	20	25
Tim Tirney	45	--	Hans Johnson	40	--
P. D. Rutledge	45	45	Andrew Peterson	18	--
Elif Ebror	15	--	A. A. Hovde	15	15
N. A. Melick	30	35	H. J. Halvorson	15	10
Andrew Anderson	40	20	J. P. Anderson	15	10
Nels Nelson	75	30	Swan Anderson	25	--
Andrew Ordson	30	--	J. F. Oleson	20	--
Daniel Pedoin	20	25	N. T. Wethal	25	--
Martin Cain	25	--	H. L. Rud	10	18
H. J. Juveland	25	--	Peter Carlson	20	12
John Skarpohl	30	10	A. A. Nass	13	--
O. F. Birchard	40	--	Fred Peterson	30	10
William Birchard	60	--	O. S. Stenborg	20	--
Thomas McNamara	40	--	M. M. Munson	12	--
C. C. Fisher	40	12	C. O. Wagner	15	10
Stephen Carney	25	--	Halvor Halvorson	18	--
William Hackney	20	--	J. G. Butterfield	225	90

The amount appropriated by the state of Minnesota for this county was \$2,453.50, and this purchased 2,067 bushels of wheat and 860 bushels of oats. The average paid for wheat was \$1.05, and for oats, 35 cents. The seed grain was all delivered at either St. James or Madelia stations.

This donation on the part of the commonwealth enabled the farmers to sow and reap an abundant harvest in most cases.

In 1895 this county donated grain, goods and cash to the sufferers in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas, thus reciprocating for favors as above mentioned—they were only too glad to thus donate.

RELOCATING THE COUNTY SEAT.

After enjoying the county seat for thirteen years, Madelia commenced to fear that the seat of justice was to be taken from them to St. James.

The following is a copy of the legislative bill enacted in 1874:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Minnesota:

Section 1. That the county seat of the county of Watonwan, in the state of Minnesota, be and the same is hereby removed from the village and town of Madelia, where it is now located in said county, to the village of St. James, in said county.

Section 2. At the time of giving notice of the next general election it shall be the duty of the officers of said county of Watonwan required by law to give notice of said election, to give notice in like manner that at said election a vote will be taken on the question of adopting this act removing the county seat from the village and town of Madelia to the said village of St. James, as provided in section 1 of this act; but no failure or irregularity in such notice or in giving of such notice shall in any way vitiate the vote on such question.

Section 3. At said election the electors of said county in favor of the removal of said county seat, as provided in the act shall have distinctly written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, on their ballots, "For removal of county seat," and those opposed to such removal, "Against removal of county seat," and such ballots shall be received by the judges of election and canvassed at the same time and in the same manner and returned to the same office as votes for county officers.

Section 4. The county canvassing board of said county to whom said election returns are made, shall canvass the votes on said question at the same time and in the same manner as returns of votes for county officers,

and if upon such canvass being made it shall appear that a majority of the electors of said county of Watonwan voted in favor of the adoption of this act and the removal of said county seat, an abstract of the canvass of said votes shall be made on one sheet signed and certified in the same manner as in case of abstracts of votes for the county officers and shall be deposited in the office of the county auditor of said county and said county auditor shall immediately thereafter transmit to the secretary of state a copy of said abstracts duly certified by said auditor.

Section 5. If the act shall be adopted by a majority of the electors of said county of Watonwan, the governor shall forthwith make proclamation as provided by law in such cases and it is hereby made the duty of all officers who are required by law to hold their offices at the county seat to remove their offices, books and records to the new county seat at St. James within thirty days after the removal of said county seat as in this act provided, without further notice, and any failure to remove said office shall operate as a forfeiture of their said offices.

Section 6. Chapter 193 of special laws of 1873 and all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 7. It shall be lawful for the village authorities of said Madelia and St. James, and they are respectively hereby authorized, to appoint by certificate under their hand a proper person to attend such of the township and village boards and judges of election thereof in said county as they may deem necessary, who shall have authority and whose duty it shall be to witness the action of said township and village boards or judges of election in receiving and preparing the register of legal voters in either of the election districts of said county for the next general election and in concluding the next general election in either of said election districts, said person or persons appointed shall be sworn, and it shall be their duty to see that none but legal voters of said county are registered and allowed to vote at any of the several election districts of said county, and to use all lawful means in their power to prevent fraud or deceit thereat and cause to be prosecuted any and all persons found guilty of any fraud or deceit at any of the election districts; and it is hereby made the duty of the officers or judges of election of said election district to allow such persons so appointed to be present at the making of such registration lists or holding of such elections and to afford to them proper facilities to freely witness the same, and the canvass of the votes cast thereat and the preparation and sealing of the official returns thereof and to make an abstract of the same if so desired, and the fact that any said persons so appointed shall be refused the rights

and privileges herein granted by any board or judges of election shall be deemed *prima facie* evidence that the votes cast thereat upon the removal of said county seat are fraudulent and void.

Section 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, except as to section 1, which is to take effect from and after adoption of the same as provided herein.

The following is a record of the votes cast by townships at the general election held in 1873 for the removal of the county seat:

For. Against.		For. Against.	
Adrian	42	Riverdale	19 39
Butterfield	33	Rosendale	37 2
Fieldon	2 153	St. James	312 1
Long Lake	86	South Branch	5
Madelia	795		
Odin	72	Total	603 995

VOTE ON THE SAME QUESTION, 1878.

For. Against.		For. Against.	
Adrian	56	Odin	78
Antrim	4 65	Riverdale	11 22
Butterfield	23	Rosendale	27 1
Fieldon	3 57	St. James	172
Long Lake	78	South Branch	48 1
Madelia	11 214		
Nelson	83 11	Total	594 371

At the board meeting of the county commissioners in October, 1878, the following proceedings were dealt with:

"Whereas, the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company has given a warranty deed in fee simple to the county commissioners of Watonwan county, Minnesota, of lots Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, in block 25, in the village of St. James, for the use and purpose of said county, whenever the county seat is removed to St. James. Therefore, be it resolved that said deed be and is hereby accepted and the sum of one dollar hereby appropriated out of the county fund to pay said railroad company as a consideration of said deed;

"And, whereas, the trustees of the village of St. James have executed

and delivered to the county commissioners of Watonwan county, Minnesota, a lease of a certain building, situate on lots 5 and 6, in block 25, in the village of St. James, known as the "court house," for the use of the county for county purposes for the term of ninety-nine years, or as long as used by the county for the amount of one dollar, as rent for the same;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that said lease be accepted and ratified, and the sum of one dollar is hereby appropriated out of the general fund, to be paid to the trustees of the village of St. James, as a consideration for said lease."

THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

January session of 1879—At this session of the board of county commissioners they selected the *Madelia Times* as the official paper of Watonwan county for the ensuing year. At the same meeting the commissioners appointed William R. Marvin as a committeeman to prepare plans and make estimates for a vault at the court house and report same at the next meeting of the board. The forty-first school district was set off at this meeting. The county auditor was instructed to insure the court house in the sum of one thousand dollars for one year.

Parties at Madelia were granted a saloon license for twenty-five dollars at the same meeting. The school superintendent's salary was fixed at four hundred dollars a year. The *St. James Journal* and *Madelia Times* put in their bids for the county printing for the ensuing year. Sheriff James Glispin was allowed his bill for extra expense incurred in the capture of the famous bandits, the Younger brothers, of the Northfield bank robbery episode. The bill was \$54.55, and was vouched for by the county attorney. The official fees collected in this county in 1879 were: Clerk of the district court, \$763; register of deeds, \$613; sheriff, \$722.

March, 1881, session—The county commissioners appointed a committee to superintend the construction of a fire-proof vault for the county's use. It was also ordered at that session that the block containing the court house in St. James be fenced; that the contract be awarded to James Faren at sixty dollars, he to furnish all material.

County Treasurer M. K. Armstrong was on hand and gave bond in the sum of fifteen thousand dollars. He was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of former Treasurer James Torson.

Nothing of much note transpired during the year 1882. In 1883 the county board was composed of these gentlemen: Shillitto, Gove, Olson, Stenburg and Uhlhorn. In July, 1883, County Treasurer M. E. Dunn was

suspended by the order of the governor of Minnesota, after which the county commissioners appointed Andrew S. Mellgren as county treasurer. Treasurer Dunn was a defaulter and was exposed by the public examination of his records. The story of the record is about as follows: The bondsmen of M. E. Dunn, by their attorney, J. W. Seager, appeared before the board and offered to pay fifty per cent. of the actual defalcation of the said Dunn as county treasurer.

The following resolution was offered: "Whereas, it appears that M. E. Dunn, late treasurer of Watonwan county, is a defaulter on the general bond as treasurer to the amount of \$5,889.37, and, whereas, the sureties on such bond have made a proposition to pay fifty per cent. of the actual defalcation, in consideration of being released from further liability on said bond;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that such proposition be accepted and said bondsmen released from said bond on the payment of such fifty per cent. into the treasury of said county within thirty days from date, but such release is not to prevent in any manner, the collection of the balance of such defalcation from said M. E. Dunn as such principal."

The following resolution was then passed by the board:

"Whereas, it appears that Martin E. Dunn, late treasurer of Watonwan county, is charged with the sum of \$5,889.37 in funds collected by him, as taxes as such treasurer, and that he has failed to make return and settle therefor as provided by law, and that he has absconded with said money so collected;

"Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the county auditor shall cause action to be instituted against said Martin E. Dunn, on the bond as such treasurer, to recover any sum that may be due thereon to said county." This resolution was unanimously adopted by the members of the board of county commissioners.

SALARIES AND BONDS.

At the meeting of the county commissioners, January 2, 1884, the members were: Messrs. Shillitto, Olson, Stenburg, Uhlhorn and Fanning. At this meeting the following record appears concerning salaries and bonds for the several county officers of Watonwan county: The county treasurer was to give bonds in the sum of fifteen thousand dollars; the auditor of the county in the sum of five thousand dollars; the register of deeds in the sum

of five thousand dollars; the county attorney in the sum of one thousand dollars; clerk of the district court bonds in the sum of one thousand dollars; the coroner in the sum of one thousand dollars.

The county attorney was to have a salary of three hundred dollars a year and the county superintendent of schools was to have four hundred and ten dollars, but this was changed in 1885 to ten dollars per school district in the county.

In 1886 the commissioners raised the liquor license in this county to seventy-five dollars.

At the board meeting, March, 1887, the county commissioners appointed a committee to re-shingle the court house and to make needed repairs about the buildings. Thad. Kirk was appointed coroner by the board, July, 1887, and at his death, in July, the same year, they appointed Dr. James M. Smith to fill the vacancy caused by his death.

Nothing of general public interest transpired on the board of county commissioners during the years intervening between 1887 and 1891.

HISTORY OF THE COURT HOUSES.

The first court house in Watonwan county was located in the village of Madelia, on the lot just east of the Mutual Insurance building. The building was a frame structure and rather pretentious for that time. The local attorneys had their offices in this building. Fire destroyed this building. No sooner had the building burned than the citizens of Madelia were planning for another, because already they had fears lest in the near future the question of removal might come up. Joseph Flanders came to the rescue and built the brick building, now occupied by C. J. Eide, Lodes' Ideal Restaurant, McGovern's electrical shop and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, to be used for court house purposes. The text of the lease given by Mr. Flanders to the county commissioners is here produced in part: "I do hereby certify that on the 14th day of October, 1873, J. Flanders and Mary, his wife, made and executed and delivered to the commissioners of Watonwan county, Minnesota, a lease, in due and proper form wherein and whereby the said Flanders and wife conveyed to said commissioners and to their successors in office for the use of said county, the following described premises: One room on the lower floor of the brick building, now owned by said lessors and situated on lot 5, in block 3, in Flanders' Addition, town of Madelia, together with fireproof vault adjacent to and connected with

said room; also the main hall in second story of said building, together with approaches, fixtures and privileges thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining; to have and to hold the same unto the said commissioners and their successors in office for and during the full term of ten (10) years from and after the first day of November, 1873, or so long as the same may be needed for county purposes, not exceeding said term of ten years."

An editorial that appeared in the *Madelia Times*, 1875, says: "One of the evidences of the dictatorial spirit with which J. Flanders attempts to run this county, subservient to his arbitrary will, is evidenced by the manner in which he put the county offices out of possession of the rooms, whose use belongs to the county, and to no one else, for county purposes under a lease of ten years, or so long as it may be needed for said purposes, by the county seat remaining at this place. It is a shame and a disgrace that our county officers should be even asked to vacate the apartments provided for them by the said lease, which was accepted by the county board and put on record, and be moved into another room, which is not well lighted, to suit the caprice of one dictating official, simply that he may use the room which rightfully belongs to the county, to accomplish selfish ends. Still worse than this, however, a part of the officers were not even requested to move, but without being consulted and in their absence, their desks, books and papers were removed."

THE PRESENT COURT HOUSE.

On February 2, 1891, the first mention in the records of the county, concerning a new court house was made when the following resolution was passed by the county board:

"Whereas, the building now used as a court house is inadequate and unsuitable for the transaction of the county's business and the safe keeping of the county records; Therefore, Resolved, by the board of county commissioners of Watonwan county, Minnesota, that by virtue of the power conferred upon us by sections 86 and 110, chapter 8, of the General Assembly of 1878, we proceed to build a new court house for said Watonwan county.

"Resolved, that our members in the Legislature are hereby requested to secure the passage of a law authorizing the issue of bonds of said county in the sum of thirty thousand dollars for the purpose of building a new court house. The question of such bonds to be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of said county at the annual election of the towns and villages

to be held March 10th, 1891. The first of said bonds to become due five years after its issue and to be paid at the rate of three thousand dollars per annum until all said bonds are paid off."

The county commissioners in 1895 were as follow: Messrs. Crowley, Busser, Lindley, Swanson and Melheim. On March 4, 1895, this board of commissioners advertised for bids for the sale of thirty thousand dollars worth of county bonds for the erection of the new court house and ordered bonds, the same inserted in the newspapers, said bids to be opened on April 15, that year.

At the April session of the board in 1895, the following resolution was passed: Resolved, that we issue bonds as commissioners of Watonwan county in the sum of thirty thousand dollars, bearing five per cent. interest, payable as follows: Ten thousand dollars, five years from date of issue; ten thousand, ten years from date of issue; and ten thousand, fifteen years from date of issue. Bonds to be issued in denominations of one thousand dollars each and for the purpose of erecting and finishing a court house for the said county of Watonwan, Minnesota, under authority of chapter 476, of the special laws of the state of Minnesota, for the year 1891.

The board then proceeded to open and consider bids, as secured for the purchase of thirty thousand dollars in court house bonds, to be issued July 1, 1895. Bids came in from all quarters of the country, as will be seen by the list of bidders given: Marion Lewis & Company, Chicago, \$30,463; W. J. Hayes & Son, Cleveland, Ohio, \$29,705; Campbell, Wild & Company, Anderson, Indiana, \$30,000; E. W. Peet & Company, St. Paul, \$30,000; Z. T. Lewis, Dayton, Ohio, \$30,325; Seymour Barto & Company, New York City, \$30,431.51; George H. Marsh, Mankato, Minnesota, \$10,210, for the fifteen-year bonds, \$10,150 for the ten-year bonds; Farson Leach & Company, Chicago, \$30,150; Farmers' and Merchants' Savings Bank, Minneapolis, \$31,261; J. D. Cleghorn & Company, Minneapolis, \$30,947; N. W. Harris & Company, Chicago, \$30,790; First National Bank, St. Paul, \$30,000; First National Bank, Chicago, \$30,790; Trobridge & Company, Chicago, \$30,456. The board accepted the bid of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Minneapolis, at \$31,261. They then began the erection of the new court house, as presented by fifteen or more architects and building firms.

April 16, 1895—The board met again to go over the plans and hear

from various architects their explanation of specifications. They continued meeting and adjourning until April 19, when it was moved and carried unanimously that the plans and specifications of H. C. Gerlock, of Mankato, be accepted, and that he be engaged to draw complete plans and specifications for the new court house. About this date the commissioners selected five banks in the county as depositories for the county's funds.

May 22, 1895—Bids for building the court house opened. There were five firms from Mankato, one at St. James, seven from St. Paul and Minnesota, one from Blue Earth City, one from Stillwater. These fifteen bids ranged from \$30,700 to \$43,700.

May 23, 1895.—Resolved, That we, as the board of county commissioners of Watonwan county, do and hereby accept the bid of Klemeschmidt Brothers, of Mankato, Minnesota, in the sum of \$30,700, for the erection and construction of the new court house to be erected in the village of St. James, according to plans and specifications prepared by H. C. Gerlock, architect. The same day the county commissioners viewed the nineteen bids for furnishing the steam-heating plant, and finally selected the bid of the Pond and Hasey Company, of Minneapolis, which firm agreed to execute the work for the sum of \$2,390. At the same session the board instructed the county auditor to notify different manufacturers that contracts would be let for the vault and steel work of the court house to be built, and that the bids would be viewed at the July session of the board, at St. James.

July 11, 1895.—The board of commissioners let the contract for vaults to the new court house. They had four bidders and accepted the one made by the Specialty Manufacturing Company, of Rochester, New York, in the sum of \$1,218.65, and this was to include all metal and steel fixtures, as per plans and specifications submitted. The bids for all office furniture and fixtures were opened from many companies. The board of commissioners took the bid at \$2,020 of a Minneapolis firm, known as the Office and School Furniture Company. Thus far the contracts let for the building and fixtures amounted to \$36,337, and early in 1896 the commissioners provided electric lights for the court house at an expense of \$500.

VOTE ON COURT HOUSE BOND ISSUE IN 1892.

When the people of this county voted for the issuing of bonds with which to erect a new court house in 1892, the sentiment was against such measure, as is seen by the following vote in the several townships:

Township.	For.	Against.	Township.	For.	Against.
Rosendale -----	--	41	Adrian -----	5	32
Antrim -----	--	85	Long Lake -----	25	35
Fieldon -----	--	51	South Branch -----	44	9
Madelia -----	--	56	St. James -----	35	15
Riverdale -----	2	43	Butterfield -----	10	49
Nelson -----	6	58	St. James village----	236	02
Odin -----	6	58		-----	-----
			Totals -----	396	516

COURT HOUSE BOND ISSUE, 1895.

By townships the vote on the bond issue which resulted in the erection of the present magnificent temple of justice, was as follows, the same being voted on at the March election, 1895:

	For.	Against.		For.	Against.
St. James village----	414	--	Adrian township ---	34	17
St. James township--	60	12	Butterfield village ---	11	16
Madelia village -----	56	241	Butterfield township--	18	32
Madelia township --	3	63	Rosendale township--	44	14
Odin township -----	8	43	Nelson township----	43	19
South Branch town-			Long Lake township--	39	20
ship -----	51	3	Antrim township ---	--	54
Riverdale township--	72	12	Majority for bonds--	222	

THE JAIL AND CARING FOR THE POOR.

Formerly this county used the city jail for keeping its few prisoners in, but when the present court house was built a few cells or steel cages were constructed in the basement of the building, for county jail purposes, but long ago this arrangement was declared unsanitary and by the authorities condemned, since which time this has not been used, but prisoners have been taken to Mankato for safe keeping, until tried. It is thought now that the county commissioners made a mistake when building the present court house that they did not seek to purchase some of the adjoining property on which a suitable jail and sheriff's house could have been erected at some later date. Now the property is materially advanced in value.

Watonwan county has never had a "poor farm" or poor house, as so

many of the sister counties have. It being a smaller county, the authorities have believed it less expensive to care for the few unfortunate poor in other ways, each township, in a way paying for this item. A few of the poor are kept at the St. James hospital, as they are ailing bodily and can be better cared for there than in private homes.

FINANCES IN JULY, 1897.

The following appears of record in the minutes of the proceedings of the county commissioners in July, 1897:

County Treasurer Dr.

To balance shown by auditor's books, July 10, 1897-----	\$18,399.43
To taxes collected since July, 1897 -----	6.81
Total -----	\$18,406.24

County Treasurer Cr.

By deposits in First National Bank, St. James -----	\$ 3,774.61
By deposits in Old Bank, St. James -----	3,810.64
By deposits in Citizens Bank, St. James -----	2,575.28
By deposits in State Watonwan County Bank, Madelia-----	4,165.62
By school warrants paid -----	96.98
By school warrants on hand -----	63.50
By town warrants on hand -----	75.50
By cash on hand -----	6.82
Total -----	\$18,406.24

In July, 1902, the commissioners caused cement sidewalks to be laid around the court house, at sixteen and one-third cents per square foot. This contract was awarded to Joseph Schmidt.

In 1903 the county school superintendent's salary was raised to twelve dollars for each school district within the county; prior to that date the salary had been only ten dollars per school district.

June, 1907.—At a meeting of the county commissioners they voted to borrow thirty-five thousand dollars of the state of Minnesota by giving five bonds of seven thousand dollars each, drawing three per cent. This loan was for the purpose of constructing "Ditch No. 4," of Watonwan county.

The salary of the county superintendent of schools was raised again in 1913 to fifteen dollars per school district, payable monthly.

At the January meeting in 1913 the board passed the following resolution: "Moved and seconded, that the board of county commissioners of Watonwan county extend to George Busser a vote of thanks for his faithful services as county commissioner for the last twenty years.

LAST FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The county auditor's financial statement for July, 1915, is as follows:

Cash in treasury, \$26,352.98, and in bridge and road fund, \$5,669.12.

Total resources, \$32,022.10, is divided in following funds:

Tax collection fund -----	\$ 2,179.12
County revenue fund -----	3,775.25
County poor fund -----	1,695.25
County ditch fund -----	18,383.34
School district fund -----	1,088.11
Town and village fund -----	3,241.13
State lands fund -----	40.80
State loan fund -----	1,068.93
Contingent fund -----	298.84
State revenue and school fund -----	113.48
Sundries -----	137.85

Total -----	\$32,022.10
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CASH DEPOSITS.

The county had cash deposited in July, 1915, in banks as follows:

In the First National Bank of St. James-----	\$2,902.31
In the Security Bank of St. James -----	1,469.10
In Citizens National Bank, St. James -----	1,563.44
In Citizens National Bank (time deposits)-----	4,000.00
In First National Bank, Madelia -----	1,761.71
In State Bank of Butterfield -----	1,367.15
In State Bank of Butterfield (time deposits)-----	3,000.00
In Peoples State Bank, Butterfield -----	837.97
In State Bank of Darfur -----	764.30
In Merchants State Bank, Lewisville -----	1,303.79
In State Bank, Madelia -----	1,778.23
In Odin State Bank -----	1,031.38
In Odin State Bank (time deposits) -----	3,000.00
In State Bank of La Salle -----	1,411.74

ASSESSED VALUATIONS IN 1880 AND 1890.

The assessed valuation of real estate in Watonwan county in 1880 was \$756,000; in 1890 it was \$1,715,000.

The personal property valuation was in 1880, \$362,000 and in 1890 it was \$449,000.

NUMBER OF BUILDINGS ASSESSED IN 1894.

The number of buildings assessed in 1894 in the various precincts of this county were as follows: In Madelia township ninety-nine; Fieldon township, ninety-eight; Antrim township, one hundred and six; South Branch, township, ninety-nine; Rosendale township, ninety-seven; Riverdale township, one hundred and twenty-five; Nelson, one hundred and twenty-four; St. James, eighty-seven; Long Lake township, ninety-nine; Odin township, ninety-four; Butterfield township, sixty-eight; Adrian township, ninety; Madelia village, two hundred and twenty-five; St. James village, three hundred and twenty-seven. This was a total of seventeen hundred and sixty-nine buildings assessed in this county at the date named above.

ASSESSED VALUATIONS IN 1915-16.

The records in the county auditor's office show the assessed valuations in Watonwan county in 1915-16 to have been as follows by townships and corporations:

Madelia township -----	\$ 592,863	Adrian township -----	600,767
Fieldon township -----	584,207	Madelia village -----	461,494
Antrim township -----	607,726	Lewisville village -----	71,176
South Branch township--	655,516	Ormsby village -----	25,803
Rosendale township -----	672,131	Buterfield village -----	88,141
Riverdale township -----	704,297	Odin village -----	54,203
Nelson township -----	628,181	Darfus village -----	28,579
St. James township -----	581,068	St. James City -----	735,180
Long Lake township-----	597,797		
Odin township -----	544,660	Total -----	\$8,863,968
Butterfield township ----	630,170		

Out of the above total valuation, as per assessment, \$1,282,845 was for personal property. Land is usually assessed at about one-third of its actual value in this county. Cash is taxed at three dollars on a thousand dollars.

In comparison the following is appended: In 1881 the total valuation of the county was \$1,134,000; in 1885 it was \$1,406,000; in 1890 it was \$2,349,000; in 1894 it had reached \$2,979,000; and in 1900 it was placed at \$3,719,000.

TREASURY BURGLARIZED.

The county treasury was broken into in November, 1893, when the safe was kept in the old frame court house, and the sum of five dollars in small change was all that was obtained by the thief. This was under County Treasurer Mellgren's administration.

BONDS PAID OFF.

The last of the county's bonds were paid off in July, 1910, the amount being ten thousand dollars.

DRAINAGE.

Watonwan county, for the most part, is quite flat and has much wet, swampy land within its borders. This land is composed of the richest, most fertile soil of almost any in the world, when once properly drained of its surplus surface water. The soil is deep, black loam which has no superior for production of crops of any grain or grass plant that is known to this country. It is only since 1905 that much attention has been paid to the proper drainage of these lands. Owing to the thousands of lakes and hundreds of thousands of marshes found in the state of Minnesota, a system of state-wide systematic drainage was set on foot a few years ago by both state and county authorities. As it now stands, boards of county commissioners and district courts have the power to construct ditches for the purpose of draining swamps, or for the changing the course of any natural or other water course. In certain cases they may also drain meandered lakes and in all cases may drain the overflow water from any meandered lake. Petition is made to the board of county commissioners and district court, which together with a bond is filed with auditor or clerk of the district court, whereupon the board through the auditor of the county and the district court through the clerk thereof gives notice of the filing of a petition and of a time and a place where a hearing may be had thereon. The board or district court also appoints an engineer who gives a bond and who makes a survey of the proposed ditch and reports the same to the board. Such engineer makes an estimate of the cost of such ditch; the board or district

court appoints three disinterested freeholders who view the same and determine benefits and damages to each person whose land is affected thereby. Notice of the same is given to all parties interested and on the hearing of the board of county commissioners or district court, determine whether such ditch shall be established. An appeal lies only by an order of the board determining the amount of benefits to any tract of land, or the amount of damages or refusing to establish such ditch. On appeal, the question of damages or benefits is tried in the district court of the county wherein the ditch lies, as actions for the recovery of money. Upon the filing of the order to establish the ditch the county auditor is required to let a contract for the construction thereof. Such contractor is required to give a bond and the cost of such ditch and expenses is assessed against the lands benefited thereby. In order to defray the cost of constructing the same in counties not financially able to pay for the same, each county in the state is authorized to issue bonds therefor at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent. and which become due and payable not later than twenty years from the date of their issue. A statement of benefits assessed made by the auditor is filed in the office of the register of deeds and thereby a lien is filed against each tract of land mentioned therein. Payments may be made in ten equal annual installments with six per cent. added on those deferred.

The lands of the state may be drained, and an appropriation has been made by the Legislature for paying the benefits assessed against the state thereunder.

Where a ditch will affect lands in more than one county a judicial ditch may be established. The same may be done on order of the district court after procedure similar to that provided for the establishment of county ditches. The law also provides for the establishment of town ditches in certain cases.

Municipal incorporations may be assessed for drainage, but not railroad corporations. The state of Minnesota is authorized to purchase the bonds to counties issued for the construction of ditches and when sold to the state such bonds bear four per cent. interest. A board composed of the governor, secretary of state and the auditor constitute a state drainage board. This has charge of state lands. Under the law of 1915 the county commissioners are authorized to construct bridges across state ditches where they cross town wards.

There are now many large ditches in operation within this county, all

having been constructed on some one or other of the plans above described. When all parts of the county are drained by this system of ditches and properly tiled by the land-owners, this county will certainly present a beautiful appearance as one views the rural landscape. Large amounts of county and township drainage are being done at this time and miles of heavy cement tiles are taking the place of the old-fashioned wooden culverts and plank bridges.

CHAPTER V.

COUNTY AND STATE REPRESENTATION.

PRESIDENTIAL VOTE FOR WATONWAN COUNTY.

When President Lincoln ran the first time, 1860, this county had no votes, but in 1864 the county took part in the campaign, and with that election the results have been to the present time as follows, as shown by the state records:

1864—Abraham Lincoln, Republican, 38 ballots; Gen. George B. McClellan, Democrat, 5 ballots.

1868—U. S. Grant, Republican, 199; Horatio Seymour, Democrat, 57.

1872—U. S. Grant, Republican, 573; Horace Greeley, Liberal Democrat, 233.

1876—Rutherford B. Hayes, Republican, 549; Samuel J. Tilden, Democrat, 195.

1880—(No record).

1884—James G. Blaine, Republican, 626; Grover Cleveland, Democrat, 192; St. John, Prohibition, 8.

1888—Benjamin Harrison, Republican, 928; Grover Cleveland, Democrat, 326.

1892—Benjamin Harrison, Republican, 934; Grover Cleveland, Democrat, 388; James B. Weaver, Populist, 410.

1896—William McKinley, Republican, 1,622; W. J. Bryan, Democrat, 586; Joshua Levering, Prohibition, 33.

1900—William McKinley, Republican, 1,509; W. J. Bryan, Democrat, 500; John G. Woolley, Prohibition, 60.

1904—Theodore Roosevelt, Progressive, 1,415; Alton B. Parker, Democrat, 300.

1908—William H. Taft, Republican, 1,411; W. J. Bryan, Democrat, 537; E. Chafin, Prohibition, 45.

1912—William H. Taft, Republican, 524; Woodrow Wilson, Democrat, 618; Theodore Roosevelt, Progressive, 1,139.

GOVERNOR W. S. HAMMOND.

Watonwan county has furnished a governor for Minnesota, in the person of Winfield Scott Hammond, who was elected on the Democratic ticket and assumed office on January 5, 1915, and died in office the next year. His home was St. James. A biographical sketch of him appears in this work.

STATE SENATORS.

Under the apportionment of 1866—(Seventeenth district)—Lewis Porter, 1867; E. P. Freeman, 1868; E. P. Freeman, 1869; B. F. Smith, 1870; B. F. Smith, 1871.

Under apportionment of 1871—(Twenty-eighth district)—Jonas Lindall, 1872; J. Lindall, 1873; B. K. Burrows, 1874; W. H. C. Folsom, 1875; W. H. C. Folsom, 1876; F. C. Folsom, 1877; John Shaleen, 1878; John Shaleen, 1879; John Shaleen, 1881.

Under the apportionment of 1881—(Eighth district)—George Knudson, 1883; George Knudson, 1885; John Clark, 1887; John Clark, 1889.

Under the apportionment of 1889—(Sixth district)—Frank A. Day, 1891; Frank A. Day, 1893; Frank A. Day, 1895; H. H. Duncan, 1897.

Under apportionment of 1897—(Thirteenth district)—William Visselman, 1899; William Visselman, 1901; Thomas Thorson, 1903; Thomas Thorson, 1905; W. A. Hinton, 1907; W. A. Hinton, 1909; Julius E. Haycraft, 1911; Julius Haycraft, 1913.

Under apportionment of 1913—(Ninth district)—Albert L. Ward, 1915.

STATES REPRESENTATIVES.

J. A. Reed, Brown Yates, 1867; John A. Reed, O. O. Pitcher, 1868; O. O. Pitcher, W. C. Rhodes, 1869; R. Crandall, John F. Meagher, 1870; J. F. Meagher, James B. Hubbell, 1872; Adolph Munch, Joel G. Ryder, 1873; F. H. Pratt, 1874; L. J. Stark, 1875; M. A. Brawley, 1876; W. A. Bentley, 1877; F. S. Christensen, 1878; John Dean, 1879; John Dean, 1881; S. Blackman, 1883; Silas Blackman, 1885; W. R. Estes, 1887; William R. Estes, 1889; Frederick Church, 1891; Daniel C. Hopkins, 1893; Thomas Thorsen, 1895; Thomas Thorsen, 1897; Thomas Thorsen and Peter Olson, 1899; Thomas Torson, 1901; W. A. Hinton and A. D. Palmer, 1903; W. A. Hinton and A. D. Palmer, 1905; C. J. Swendsen and John Schrooten,

1907; C. J. Swendsen and Joseph Davies, 1909; Joseph Davies, H. A. Saggau, 1911; H. A. Saggau and W. W. Brown, 1913; John Schrooten, H. W. Haislet, 1915.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

As nearly as can now be determined by the records, the following is a list of those who have held the office of county commissioner in and for Watonwan county from its organization to the present date, 1916:

By appointment by the governor—J. F. Furber, C. M. Pomeroy and Ole Jorgenson. These were appointed in April, 1861, and held their first meeting that month.

1861—Salvor Torgenson, Lewis Varwick and Thomas Rutledge.

1863—H. P. Gilbert, H. Schwarble and Jens Torsen.

1864—H. P. Gilbert, William Busser, J. T. Furber.

1865—H. P. Gilbert, J. F. Furber, Chandler Farnsworth.

1866—B. O. Kempfer (chairman), John C. Sprague, T. C. Levey.

1867—B. O. Kempfer, C. T. Levey, J. K. Webster.

1868—A. J. Nickerson, Ole Howe, J. K. Webster.

1869—A. J. Nickerson, Samuel V. Haycroft, W. S. Addsmund.

1870—Samuel V. Haycroft, W. S. Addmond, Morris Bradford.

1871—H. Morrill, William S. Addsmund, Morris Bradford.

1872—H. Morrill, Morris Bradford, Frank Pickler.

1873—J. N. Cheney, O. H. Howe, H. Morrill.

1874—Morrill, Lambert, Toothaker, Marvin and Pona.

1875—H. Morrill, Theo. Lambert, William Toothaker, A. S. Mellgren.

1876—S. W. Corbin, W. M. Toothaker, A. S. Mellgren, John Burns, Theo. Lambert.

1877—S. W. Corbin, George Busser, A. S. Mellgren, M. Vrooman.

1878—John Burns, M. E. Dun, A. S. Mellgren, M. Vrooman.

1879—A. S. Mellgren, M. Vrooman, H. Halvorson, John Shilletto, William R. Marvin.

1880—William C. Gleason, John Shilletto, H. Halvorson, L. O. Ulvestad, A. S. Mellgren.

1881—John Shilletto, H. H. Higgins, — Newcomb, Charles Gove, Ulvestad.

1883—John Shilletto, Charles Gove, Hans Olson, — Stenberg, — Ulvestad.

1884—John Shilletto, Hans Olson, — Steinberg, F. W. Uhlhorn, G. W. Fanning.

1885—Daniel Bohan, — Stenberg, G. W. Fanning, Hans Olson.

1886—Hans Olson, F. W. Uhlhorn, — Stenberg, G. W. Fanning, Daniel Bohan.

1887—Daniel Bohan, S. W. Corbin, J. W. Somers, J. H. Cheney, A. A. Nass.

1888—J. H. Cheney, Daniel Bohan, S. W. Corbin, J. W. Somers, A. A. Nass.

1889—Daniel Bohan, J. H. Cheney, S. W. Corbin, J. W. Somers, A. A. Nass.

1890—J. W. Somers, Daniel Bohan, A. A. Nass, Theodore P. Podvin.

1891—J. W. Somers, John Hammond, J. H. Cheney, Swan Beck, A. A. Nass.

1892—J. W. Somers, Charles Gove, John Hammond, A. A. Nass, Swan Beck.

1893—W. S. Crowley, Swan Beck, George Busser, Claus Melheim.

1894—W. S. Crowley, Swan Beck, John Hammond, George Busser, Claus Melheim.

1895—W. S. Crowley, George Busser, I. C. Lindley, Alex. Swanson, Charles Milheim.

1896—W. S. Crowley, T. N. Marsden, Alex. Swanson, Charles Milheim.

1897—W. S. Crowley, George Busser, T. N. Marsden, Helge Boen.

1898—George Busser, T. N. Marsden, W. S. Crowley, Alex. Swanson, Helge Boen.

1899—George Busser, J. G. Bachellor, W. S. Crowley, E. O. Haug, Helge Boen.

1900—George Busser, J. G. Bachellor, W. S. Crowley, E. O. Haug, Helge Boen.

1901—W. S. Crowley, George Busser, E. O. Haug, T. N. Marsden, John Heppner.

1902—George Busser, W. S. Crowley, E. O. Haug, John Heppner, T. N. Marsden.

1904—George Busser, T. N. Marsden, W. S. Crowley, John Heppner, Ole Kolstad.

1905—W. S. Crowley, George Busser, Ole Kolstad, T. N. Marsden, F. O. Anderson.

1906—W. S. Crowley, George Busser, T. N. Marsden, Ole Kolstad, F. O. Anderson.

1907—T. N. Marsden, George Busser, W. S. Crowley, Charles G. Rask, F. O. Anderson.

1908—George Busser, T. N. Marsden, W. S. Crowley, Charles Rask, F. O. Anderson.

1909—George Busser, T. N. Marsden, W. S. Crowley, Charles Rask, John B. Erickson.

1910—George Busser, J. B. Erickson, W. S. Crowley, Charles G. Rask, T. N. Marsden.

1911—George Busser, T. N. Marsden, W. S. Crowley, Fred E. Wiborg, J. E. Erickson.

1912—W. S. Crowley, George Busser, T. N. Marsden, J. O. Erickson, F. E. Wiborg.

1913—W. S. Crowley, T. N. Marsden, F. E. Wiborg, C. D. Brackelsberg, H. F. Horselbring.

1914—F. E. Wiborg, T. N. Marsden, C. D. Brackelsberg, W. Somers, Jacob Bragger.

1915—J. W. Somers, C. D. Brackelsberg, Frank Dewar, A. D. Peterson.

1916—C. D. Brackelsberg, Frank Dewar, J. W. Somers, A. D. Peterson, J. Brogger.

COUNTY AUDITORS.

This is one of the most important offices in the county, and has usually been filled by men of good ability as accountants and who have kept in close touch with the action of the board of county commissioners, of which they are the ex-officio clerks. The first auditor in Watonwan county was appointed by the county commissioners in the person of H. F. Gilbert. This was in the spring of 1861, and since then the list of auditors is: C. G. Mullen, 1862-3; J. L. Stark, Joseph Flanders, 1864 to 1876; George Knudson, 1876 to 1893; T. Sonstebj, 1893 to 1901; M. G. Fossum, 1901 to 1911; John C. Jensen, 1911 and still serving as auditor in 1916.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

B. O. Kempfner, who had been appointed as treasurer of the newly-organized county, failing to appear and legally qualify, the county commissioners proceeded to elect one in his place. This resulted in the choice of C. G. Mullen, who had just been appointed sheriff, but he vacated this

office and took that of county treasurer. In the fall Thomas Rutledge was elected, and since then the list has been: 1861, Thomas Rutledge; G. W. Yates, from 1868 to 1875; Jens Torsen, 1875 to 1881; M. K. Armstrong, 1881 to 1882; M. E. Dunn, 1882 to 1883; A. S. Mellgren, appointed after the governor had suspended Dunn, served from 1883 to 1905; A. M. Hanson, 1905 to 1915, when the present treasurer, Samuel Jackson, took his seat.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

With the passage of years it is seen that none but competent men should be allowed to handle the records of a county, wherein are recorded the deeds and mortgages of immense quantities of property. The first register of deeds in this county was L. C. Taylor. From 1868 on this office has been presided over by the following men: Charles G. Muller, 1868; Charles M. Pomeroy, 1869; C. Teigum, 1872 to 1876; Thomas Torsen, 1876 to 1896; S. M. Seekland, 1896 to 1905; Edward Bolin, 1905 to 1909; Albert Running, 1909 to 1913; Frederick Church, 1913 to 1916.

SHERIFFS OF THE COUNTY.

The first sheriff selected by the county authorities in 1861 was C. G. Mullen, who was immediately chosen as treasurer, hence never held the office of sheriff. The first active sheriff of this county was Jonathan Leavitt, who had been first selected as surveyor, but the failing of other county officers as above noted to qualify, he was chosen as sheriff. Then followed these: Oscar F. Winnerstrand, 1864-5; E. M. Sprague, 1866; Jens Torsen, 1868 to 1870; A. B. Stone, 1870 to 1874; James Glispen, 1874 to 1880; H. H. Higgins, 1880 to 1882; J. P. Stemper, 1882 to 1891; George W. Forsyth, 1891 to 1909; August E. Lindquist, 1909 to 1916.

CLERKS OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

The record is not found for the election of the first clerks of the district court, but possibly Martin E. Mullen was the first. Martin E. Mullen, 1868 to 1870; Thomas Mullen, a part of 1870; D. R. Bill, by appointment few months of 1870 and by election till 1875; W. Frizzell, 1875 to 1876; George P. Johnston, 1876 to 1894; George A. Bradford, 1894 to 1913; K. S. Thompson, 1913 to present date, 1916.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

In 1861-2 Daniel Bush was the first county attorney. Since 1871 the county attorneys have been: H. S. Wilson, appointed by the county commissioners and paid a salary of one hundred dollars per year; Thomas Rutledge, 1874 to 1876; J. J. Johnston, 1876 to 1882; Frank L. James, 1882 to 1884; J. W. Seager, 1884 to 1891; J. J. Thornton, 1891 to 1893; William E. Allen, 1893 to 1896; Ashley Coffman, 1896 to 1903; W. I. Hammond, 1903 to 1905; F. F. Ellsworth, 1905 to 1909; Ed. C. Farmer, 1909 to 1915; Albert Running, 1915 and still holding the office.

COURT COMMISSIONERS.

Not until about 1874 did this office have much importance attached to it. Since then those holding the position in this county have been: Charles M. Pomeroy, 1874 to 1879; G. R. McLean, 1879 to 1889; J. H. Roberts, 1889 to 1901; M. W. Sandquist, 1901 to 1911; Fred H. Schweppe, 1911 to 1916.

CORONERS.

Caleb Leavitt was the county's first coroner, he being appointed by the board of county commissioners. The record of those who followed him, if, indeed, there were any others, does not appear until 1874, when George H. Overholt was elected; in 1878 came C. R. Bacon, who served until 1887; next was Thad. Kirk, who died and the commissioners appointed James M. Smith to succeed him; from 1891 to 1905 the office was held by Dr. W. H. Rowe; from 1905 to 1909 the coroner was W. J. McCarthy, and from 1909 to 1916, Dr. Albert Thompson has filled the office.

PROBATE JUDGES.

The first to serve as judge was Notto Jansen by appointment. John Travis was the first probate judge elected in this county, and served while the county seat was yet at Madelia. He was elected in 1861. The next was John Flanders, who held until 1865, when Hart Montgomery was seated and served until 1870, and was followed by Thomas Rutledge, who served a short time under an appointment and was succeeded by H. S. Wilson, who served from 1870 to 1873; from 1873 to 1875 S. C. Clark was

probate judge; from 1877 to 1891 came M. E. Mullen, who served until succeeded by F. W. Uhlhorn and he served as probate judge until 1903; the next came Fred H. Schweppe, who is still in office.

SCHOOL EXAMINERS AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

In the early history of this county and state an official existed known as a "school examiner," whose duties were similar to those of the present county school superintendent. It was in 1862 that this office was first filled by C. G. Mullen, and in 1864 by J. L. Stark. The first county school superintendent was inducted into office in 1869, in the person of George W. Yates, whose salary was only one hundred dollars a year. The next superintendent was C. A. Barton, who left the office and the board appointed Thomas Rutledge in his place at one hundred and fifty dollars a year. In 1876 came Superintendent G. H. Overholt, and he was preceded by Miss Sargent (now Mrs. E. Z. Rasey), who was the first woman in Minnesota to hold such an office, serving two years; from 1879 to 1881 served F. D. Joy; then came George M. Johnson, from 1881 to 1887; W. E. Allen, from 1887 to 1891; C. A. Boston, 1891 to 1901; Joseph Davies, 1901 to 1909; W. W. Brown, 1909 to 1913; Mabel S. Madson, 1913 to 1916.

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

P. D. Rutledge was county surveyor from 1866 to 1868 and was succeeded by the following: M. E. Mullen, 1868 to 1878; S. C. Clark, 1878 to 1879; M. E. Mullen, 1879 to 1891; C. C. Milloid, 1891 to 1893; Otto Klose, 1893 to 1899; S. B. Lynch, 1899 to 1900; Otto Klose, 1900 to 1903; E. E. Nichols, 1903 to 1916.

ANOTHER WHO REPRESENTED THIS COUNTY.

Among the men who have represented this county in honorable and important positions may be recalled the name of Hon. William Estes, of Madelia, who in the spring of 1890, was appointed to represent this government at Jamaica. He filled the office of consul to that country with credit to himself and his country.

PROHIBITION CANDIDATES.

In the campaign of 1890, the first year that the Prohibition party had a full ticket in the field, the following were the candidates on the ticket in Watonwan county: C. N. Webb, auditor; L. A. Ulvestad, treasurer; S. W. Corbin, sheriff; H. D. Mathews, register of deeds; F. E. Sylvester, clerk of the district court; C. A. Boston, judge of probate; J. W. Seager, county attorney; W. D. Fanning, school superintendent; C. R. Pew, surveyor; M. Bradford, coroner. All were defeated, but they have this record, that they bravely stood for what they deemed right.

CHAPTER VI.

TOWNSHIPS OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

ADRIAN TOWNSHIP.

Adrian township is the extreme northwestern sub-division in Watonwan county, and comprises congressional township No. 107, range 33 west. It is bounded on the north by Brown county, on the east by Nelson township, Watonwan county, on the south by Butterfield township and on the west by Cottonwood county. A branch of the Chicago & Northwestern system of railway enters the township in section 18 and leaves it, going southward from section 33. On this is situated the village and station point of Darfur, in section 20. Adrian has several good-sized lakes, including Wood Lake, in the northeastern corner of the territory, and Cottonwood Lake, along the eastern line in section 25. The north fork of the Watonwan river courses through the township from west to east, entering from the west in section 7 and leaving it from section 12 on the east line. Another branch of the same stream flows almost parallel with the one just named, but through the lower tier of sections of the township.

ORGANIZATION.

In June, 1871, the county commissioners created the civil township known as Adrian, the same being designated as the whole of the territory embraced in congressional township 107, range 33 west, and the first election was ordered to be held at the house of Volney DeWitt. The township has always been well governed by its local officers, and is today one of the well-improved sections of the county. With railroad, market town, schools and churches the people are a happy and contented lot of good citizens. The United States census for 1910 gave the population as four hundred and eighty-one, which was a decrease from the census of 1900, which gave it as having five hundred and fifty-nine.

SETTLEMENT.

The settlement in this township was effected in about the following order: In section 2, Jonas Samuelson, Jonas Gustafson, John Wanerstrom, P. O. Swanson. In section 4, John P. Prah, William Prah, John Rathman and F. W. Uhlhorn. In section 6, William Arndt, Conrad Schaper, Martius Rathman and John Bratchner. In section 8, Frank Rathman, Charles Krueger, August Selzman, John Krieser and Rudolph Steinke. In section 10, Swan Englin, Charles Warner, John Johnson, D. Heppner and A. Englin. In section 12, Alex. Swanson, Swan Nelson, C. G. Samuelson. In section 14, P. Heppner, John Stoez and E. Lofgaren. In section 18, S. W. Burns, Gust Hagglund and Christian Hanson. In section 20, Fred Kline, Fred Schuman and John Rask. In section 22, J. L. Parker, W. Jenkins. In section 24, M. B. Foster, Jonas Nelson, P. Malm, John Hernaman. In section 26, E. Davis, Swen Swensen, V. Lebarre and Adrian Davis. In section 28, H. Jenzen, William Stalk, D. C. Atwell, D. Simmons. In section 30, George Irving, R. Haulse, Jerry Barrett and P. Fleming. In section 32, James McDonough, D. Anns and Ed. Sweeney. In section 34, David Emnis and M. Tarball.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN ADRIAN TOWNSHIP.

Under the Homestead act, approved by Congress on May 20, 1862, the following homesteads were taken up in what is now Adrian township:

P. A. Gustafson, on certificate No. 4,237, at the land office at Tracy, lot No. 4, in section 2, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, November 1, 1881.

M. Heppner, certificate No. 5,081, at Tracy land office, on the southeast quarter of section 22, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, May 15, 1884.

Ellen Bohman, certificate No. 2,667, at the New Ulm land office, the northeast half of the southeast quarter of section 12, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President U. S. Grant.

Certificate No. 5,568, to Gustaf Haglund, at the Tracy land office, the southeast quarter of section 18, township 107, range 33 west, by President Grover Cleveland, April 10, 1886.

Margareta Swanson, at the Tracy land office, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 10, township 107, range 33 west, by Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, signed January 9, 1886.

S. J. Wannerstram, on certificate No. 3,756, at the New Ulm land office, the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 107, range 33 west, was homesteaded by President Rutherford B. Hayes, and by him signed on January 20, 1881.

Charles Hull, certificate No. 2,428, at the New Ulm land office, the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 33 west, by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 20, 1882.

Gotlieb Schade, certificate No. 4,469, at the Tracy land office, the southwest quarter of section 8, township 107, range 33 west, by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on February 10, 1883.

Jacob Jacobson, by certificate No. 2,405, at the New Ulm land office, the southwest half of the northwest quarter of section 34, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed by him on February 20, 1880.

Hans Marquirson, certificate No. 2,404, on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 34, range 33 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on February 12, 1880.

Peter Newfeldt, No. 348, Tracy land office, the east half of the southwest quarter of section 20, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, November 1, 1881.

Joel Parker, certificate No. 3,929, at the New Ulm land office; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on February 10, 1881; land in section 26, township 107, range 33 west.

Peter Falk, certificate No. 5,133, at the Tracy land office; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on January 15, 1885; land in section 6, township 107, range 33 west.

Eugen Salzman, certificate No. 3,776, at the New Ulm land office; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on January 20, 1881; land—the south half of the northwest quarter of section 8, township 107, range 33 west.

P. F. Malm, certificate No. 2,501, at the New Ulm land office, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 24, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed November 23, 1875.

Wesley D. Pond, south half of the southeast quarter, section 26, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on October 15, 1873.

Jerry Barrett, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 30, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed September 10, 1880.

Ephraim Lofgren, New Ulm land office, east half of the northeast quarter of section 14, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President James A. Garfield, signed on May 3, 1881.

August Schade, New Ulm land office, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 14, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Arthur, signed February 10, 1883.

THE VILLAGE OF DARFUR.

This village was platted in section 20, township 107, range 33 west, by the officers of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, April 20, 1890. The platting was signed by Marvin Huhgett, president of the railroad company.

INCORPORATION.

Darfur was incorporated as a village in 1904. Its first village officers were: E. J. Wilson, president; C. F. Klein, treasurer; W. H. Hochert, recorder. The officers now serving are as follow: Thomas Englin, president; John A. Gustafson, Ed. A. Goring and A. J. Samuelson, trustees; W. Schulte, clerk.

The village now has a half mile of cement sidewalks; a fire engine and a volunteer fire company of eighteen men. So far it has needed no jail or police. The corporation has debts only to the amount of three hundred dollars. The following have served as presidents of the village: E. J. Wilson, 1904 to 1907; Theo. Kintzi, 1907 to 1910; A. Jaeger, 1910 to 1914; O. F. Langhoff, 1914-15; Theo. Englin, 1915, and present president of Darfur village.

PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Very little can be said of the postoffice history of the village. The amount of business is about the average of all fourth-class offices. To date there have been only two postmasters, Jacob Heppner and A. A. Jaeger, the present incumbent.

The following business interests were represented in 1916:

Auto garage—John Gustafson.

Bank—State Bank.

Barber—L. Stoutenberg.

Blacksmith—W. Buche.

Creamery—Darfur Co-operative Creamery Company.

Dray—S. Weast.

Elevator—Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company.

General Dealer—Edward Goring, A. Jaeger.

Hardware and Implements—Englin & Samuelson.

Hotel Darfur—S. Weast, proprietor.

Lumber—C. M. Youngman Lumber Company.

Livery—S. Weast.

Stock Buyer—Darfur Stock Buyers' Association.

ANTRIM TOWNSHIP.

Antrim township is the southeastern civil township of Watonwan county. At its north is Fieldon township, at the east is Blue Earth county, at its south is Martin county and at the west is South Branch township. It is a full congressional township and hence is six miles square with thirty-six full sections. There are a few small streams, or prairie "runs" and very few lakes or ponds as compared to other sub-divisions of this county. The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad runs on the half-section line from section 33 to section 4, and has for a station point in the township the little hamlet of Lewisville, located in section 4.

The population of the township in 1890 was 573; in 1900 it was 591, and in 1910 it was 582.

TOWNSHIP'S ORGANIZATION.

Antrim township was formed by the county commissioners in January, 1867, when the commissioners were Messrs. Kempfer, Levey and Webster. There was a petition and also a remonstrance presented the board—one asking that a new township be formed and the other in opposition thereto. It was asked in the petition for the new township that it be named "Bloomington." It was finally agreed to form the new township and the matter of naming it was left to Joseph Flanders and B. O. Kempfer, who called it "York," but the records show that in the spring of 1868 it was being called Antrim.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

There were several settlers in this part of the county before the days of "homesteaders." Some remained, and many more left at the date of the

Indian troubles in August, 1862, never to return. The following is a true transcript of many of the early land entries:

William S. Jones, certificate No. 4,985, at the Worthington land office, was laid on the northwest quarter of section 6, township 195, range 30 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on June 15, 1880.

Alva Curtis, certificate No. 2,992, at the Jackson land office, was for a homestead in the south half of the northeast quarter of section 14, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on April 15, 1874.

David Davies, certificate No. 7,272, at the Worthington land office, on the northeast quarter of section 14, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on September 20, 1870.

Abbie Paine, certificate No. 6,187, at the Worthington land office, on the north half of the southwest quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 4, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on March 10, 1883.

A. D. Carnwell, certificate No. 7,427, at the Jackson land office, on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 20, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on February 1, 1872.

G. A. Manston, certificate No. 4,867, at the Worthington land office, on the north half of the southeast quarter of section 6, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

W. Zinke, certificate No. 5,611, at the Worthington land office, on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 34, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on December 20, 1881.

W. Davis, certificate No. 2,265, at the Jackson land office, on the northwest quarter of section 14, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on February 1, 1873.

Karl Sexaner, certificate No. 5,616, at the Worthington land office, on the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on December 12, 1881.

K. Comstock, certificate No. 3,008, at the Worthington land office, on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 22, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on March 12, 1876.

Stephen I. Comstock, certificate No. 7,781, at the Worthington land office, on the southwest quarter of section 22, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on January 12, 1885.

Charles C. Waste, certificate No. 4,330, at the Worthington land office,



C., ST. P., M. & O. DEPOT, LEWISVILLE.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, LEWISVILLE.

on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 6, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on March 1, 1877.

Carl Brasinske, certificate No. 4,620, at the Worthington land office, on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 28, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on December 12, 1877.

Eli H. Richwood, No. 6,109, at the Worthington land office, the south half of the northeast quarter of section 6, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on March 15, 1882.

Marshall Donley, certificate No. 6,202, at the Worthington land office, the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the northwest of the northeast quarter of section 18, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 5, 1884.

Tobert Dewars, certificate No. 6,965, on the southwest quarter of section 10, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Grover Cleveland, signed on June 31, 1885.

VILLAGE OF LEWISVILLE.

Lewisville was platted by the Interstate Land Company, May 3, 1899, in section 4, township 105, range 30 west, through the company's president, P. H. Peavey. It is situated on the north and south branch of the Omaha railroad, and is among the later villages within the county. Lewisville became an incorporated village in 1902. The presidents of the village, in order of serving, are as follow: C. O. Nicholson, Adolph Sucker, John Mutsch, John E. Moore and C. E. Anderson.

The first officers were as follow: President, C. O. Nicholson; trustees, R. Lewis, Charles Johns, A. J. McLain; recorder, S. Taylor; treasurer, Adolph Sucker. The present officers are: President, C. Anderson; trustees, Gustav Bethke, E. G. Bethke, A. R. Grieger; recorder, A. W. Alb; treasurer, Adolph Sucker.

The town has about twenty-three blocks of cement sidewalks, a small fire engine and hose, a small jail, which is seldom used. In laying out the town an eight-acre park was arranged for, but little use has ever been made of it.

The receipts of this postoffice are double and even treble those of some other postoffices of the county, where the population of the village is approximately the same. The past year's business amounted to one thousand one hundred fifty-five dollars and eighty-two cents, exclusive of money

orders. The postmasters to date are as follow: Richard Lewis, Ethel H. Moore and John E. Moore. There is one rural free delivery route.

In the summer of 1916 the business interests were represented by the following:

Auto Garage—Henry Ikier.

Bank—Merchants' State Bank.

Blacksmith—A. Albaugh, Robert Schoneck.

Barber—Elmer Olson.

Clothing—Hodapp-Nelson.

Drugs and Jewelry—John E. Moore, Lewisville Drug & Jewelry Company.

Elevator—Farmers' Elevator Company.

Furniture—Gust Bethke.

Grocer—E. E. Anderson.

General Dealer—Hillesheim & Company.

Hardware and Implements—H. C. Flitter, Greiger & Reiter.

Harness—Lewis Nagel.

Hotel—Mrs. B. Mueller.

Livery—August Sonnabend.

Lumber—Weyerhaeuser & Company.

Meat Market—Henry Keehn.

Millinery—May E. Ross Dewar.

Restaurant—Mrs. R. Albaugh.

Stock Dealers—Lewis & Dewar.

Telephone—Tri-State.

Variety Store—F. B. Mellen.

Lewisville has a population of only three hundred and fifty and is one of the real progressive towns of the county. Every citizen is in the true sense of the word a "booster." There is complete harmony among its business men and all work to make Lewisville a real commercial center. The town is perhaps the only one in the entire county that is free from debt, a fact which does credit to the town officers.

BUTTERFIELD TOWNSHIP.

Butterfield township is on the west line of Watonwan county and is the second from the northern line of the county, with Adrian at the north, St.

James at the east and Odin township at the south. It comprises congressional township 106, range 33 west. It is a well-settled township and in it is the sprightly village of Butterfield, a station on the main line of the Omaha line and the crossing of that road and the branch of the Chicago & Northwestern line. The township is an even congressional township of thirty-six sections of land, of most excellent quality. The central branch of the Watonwan river flows to the eastward through this township, and there are a few pretty little lakes within the township, notably the ones in section 1, the one in section 28, and one in section 7. There are many beautiful farms in Butterfield township and stockraising and other branches of farming are carried on extensively.

The population of the township, exclusive of the village of Butterfield, in 1890 was 366; in 1900 it was 489 and in 1910 it was 602, according to the United States census returns.

ORGANIZATION.

Butterfield township was formed by the county commissioners at their regular meeting held in January, 1872, out of congressional township 106, range 33, and another on the same date called Odin, formed to the south of Butterfield township.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Many of the early settlers of the central-west part of Watonwan county located on government and railroad lands in what is now Butterfield township. No memorandum has been left of the first few who claimed land in this township, but the following will give the reader a partial account of the homesteaders there:

Abraham Friesen, on the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 106, range 33 west; the certificate was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, January 15, 1885.

George Bland homesteaded by certificate No. 2,310 at the New Ulm land office, the northwest of section 6, township 106, range 33 west, the same being signed by President U. S. Grant, September 15, 1874.

From the land office at Tracy the east half of the northeast quarter of section 10, township 106, range 33 west, was homesteaded on March 10, 1883, signed by President Chester A. Arthur.

Certificate No. 4,558, to Henry Bartel, was homesteaded for the south-

east quarter of section 8, township 106, range 33 west, was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

Peter Rempel, on his certificate No. 5,392, homesteaded at the Tracy land office, the southeast half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 106, range 33 west. It was issued by President Grover Cleveland, April 27, 1885.

VILLAGE OF BUTTERFIELD.

Butterfield was platted in section 27, township 106, range 33 west, on September 13, 1880, by E. F. Drake, president of the railroad company, then styled the St. Paul & Sioux City, now the Omaha system.

The postoffice at Butterfield is the third largest in the county. The postal receipts for the last fiscal year amounted to two thousand dollars. Four rural routes serve the community from this office. The following is a list of all postmasters to date: John Remple, Ed. Woenike, John F. Enns, Alice M. Anderson and J. P. Anderson.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN 1916.

The business interests of Butterfield at June, 1916, were in the hands of the following:

Auto Garage—Butterfield Auto Company.

Banks—Peoples State Bank, State Bank.

Barber—John O. Ness.

Blacksmith—Ole A. Ulvestad.

Creamery—Butterfield Creamery Company, N. C. Norensen, manager.

Drugs—J. W. Hollenitsch.

Dentist—V. V. Bele.

Elevator—Hubbard & Palmer Company, Farmers Elevator Company.

Furniture—Kintzi & Ewy.

General Dealers—Gust Miller, S. J. Sulen, P. W. Rempel.

Hotel—Butterfield.

Harness—Frank Loews.

Hardware—Kintzi & Ewy, Friesen & Holte, W. W. Rempel.

Implements—Claus Melheim, Farmers Elevator Company.

Jeweler—J. W. Hollenitsch.

Lumber—J. H. Queal and Company.

Livery—Hans E. Staaling, Carl Kramer.

Mills—St. James Milling Company, Halbersen & Skjie.



STATE BANK, BUTTERFIELD.



SCENES IN BUTTERFIELD.

Millinery—Mrs. P. W. Rempel.

Meat Market—Otto F. Langhoff.

Newspaper—The *Butterfield Advocate*, John W. Hubin, proprietor.

Opera House—The Butterfield.

Physician—Dr. Ole E. Hagen.

Produce Dealer—Butterfield Mercantile Company.

Restaurants—S. C. Johnston, Mrs. W. Abel.

Wagonmaker—Aug. B. Schwiertert.

Although Butterfield has a population of only four hundred and twenty-five, yet her progress and volume of business are equal to that of towns several times her size. Credit for these things belong almost entirely to the Commercial Club, organized in 1907 for civic and industrial purposes. Perhaps one of the most important things accomplished by the club is the securing of electric lights for the town. The present officers of the Commercial Club are as follow: President, D. E. Raney; vice-president, J. Brogger; secretary, J. O. Ness; treasurer, S. J. Sulem.

In November, 1903, Butterfield had a fire which destroyed over twenty thousand dollars worth of village property.

In 1904 there was a fire in the village which destroyed a hardware and furniture store belonging to Kintzi Brothers, and a confectionery belonging to Edw. Bergthold.

In 1916 the house of E. Brogger was partly burned and the loss was assessed at seven hundred dollars.

INCORPORATION HISTORY.

Butterfield was incorporated as a village on April 5, 1895. The following have served as presidents of the board: B. Rempel, G. A. Kintzi, J. J. Harder, A. Syverson, R. M. Kintzi, O. A. Ulvestad, S. J. Sulem.

The first village officers were as follow: B. Rempel, president; G. A. Kintzi, recorder. Those of 1916 are: S. J. Sulem, president; J. W. Hubin, recorder; E. Brogger, Frank Toews and P. W. Rempel, trustees; John Kintzi, treasurer.

The village has four miles of cement walks, two fire engines, two hose cars, a volunteer fire company of nineteen men, two cells for jail purposes in village hall, which building was erected in 1905. In 1916 there was installed by the Northern States Power Company, under a twenty-five year franchise, a complete electric lighting system for both light and power.

FIELDON TOWNSHIP.

Fieldon civil township is comprised of congressional township 106, range 30 west, and is on the eastern line of the county with Madelia township at the north, Blue Earth county at the east, Antrim township at the south and Rosendale township at the west. There are no towns or hamlets within its borders. The Fairmont and Madelia branch of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad runs through sections 4, 9, 15, 21, 28 and 33, the same running directly on the half section line from north to south. The surface is mostly a level prairie plane, with a few small streams, but void of any lakes of any considerable size.

This township had a population in 1890 of 487; in 1900 it had 547 and according to the census in 1910 it had a population of 535.

ORGANIZATION HISTORY.

In September, 1868, at the meeting of the board of county commissioners that body changed the name of Wakefield township to that of Fieldon. Wakefield had been organized by the commissioners at the March, 1868, meeting from township 106, range 30 west, but for some reason was in September of that year changed to Fieldon, by which it is still known.

FIRST SETTLERS.

Among the very earliest settlers in this township were these: Nick McNamara, Dan Griffen, Charles McLaughlin, Martin Burk, Herman Madson, John Madson, Thomas Yeagen, who was burned to death in a prairie fire.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN FIELDON TOWNSHIP.

Charles Clawman, by certificate held by him and presented at the land office in New Ulm, homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 28, township 106, range 30 west, the same being signed by President U. S. Grant July 10, 1871.

Joseph Lehner, at the New Ulm land office, homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 106, range 30 west, the same being issued by U. S. Grant, President of the United States, March 1, 1876.

Peter Hoffelt, by certificate No. 1,932, at the New Ulm land office, secured a homestead right to the west half of the northwest quarter of section 4, township 106, range 30 west, the same being signed by President Grover Cleveland, April 27, 1885.

Under the same act of Congress, warrant No. 94,881, for a quarter of section 14, township 106, range 30, was received at St. Peter land office and signed by President Abraham Lincoln. It was issued to Josephus Weter, private in Captain Davis's company, New York militiamen, in the War of 1812. This land is in Fieldon township.

LONG LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Long Lake township is comprised of congressional township 105, range 32 west. It is on the southern border line of the county, with Odin township at the west, St. James at the north and South Branch township at the east. It is six miles square and contains thirty-six full sections. It is a prairie township, but has three good-sized lakes and several smaller water sheets, or prairie ponds, which, with the cultivation and improvement of the country, are fast disappearing from view. The lakes referred to are Kansas Lake, Long Lake, Mary Lake. These are all in the northern half of the township, the former being situated in the northwest part, while the other two are in the northeastern portion. These prairie lakes abound in fish and have considerable improvement around their shores and afford a nice summer resort for the citizens of St. James and surrounding country. In the exact center of the township is found a good town hall. The villages of the township are Echols and Ormsby, the former in the northern part and the latter on the county line south and extends over into Martin county.

The population of the township in 1890 was 538; in 1900 it was 650 and in the United States census reports for 1910 it was given as 583.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad traverses the township from north to south, through sections 3, 9, 10, 16, 21, 28 and 33, with stations at Ormsby and Echols.

ORGANIZATION.

Long Lake township was organized in March, 1868, from township 105, ranges 32 and 33 west. At the same meeting old "Wakefield" township was created at the same meeting, but is now known as Fieldon.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement here was effected by Hans Johnson, who was born in 1821 in Norway, and settled in this township in 1858. Another very early settler was George Johnson.

In 1857 Gabriel Ellingson and Iver Sole settled in Long Lake. Hans Olson Hegg also took a claim, but left soon after, selling to Hans Thompson. Mr. Hegg returned after the close of the Indian troubles.

In 1857 arrived Jacob Tharal and wife, Jens and Thor Torsen, with their mother, Marie Torsen Overig; Hans Pedersen and wife, Rand; Sivert Nicolai and Nils Fjelstad. Salra Torgenson and wife; Lars Havlorson Longmeyer came in 1861; John and Simon Poland came in 1862.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN LONG LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Under the act of congress approved on May 20, 1862, the following homesteads were taken up and proved up on at the end of the five years required by that act:

Peter P. Moe, certificate No. 6,974, at the Worthington land office, was laid on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 12, township 105, range 32 west, issued by President Grover Cleveland, and signed on July 27, 1885.

Nels Gunderson, certificate No. 2,600 at the Jackson land office, was laid on the northeast quarter of section 20, township 105, range 32, west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 5, 1884.

Peter Lee, certificate No. 6,718, at the Worthington land office, on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 2, township 105, range 32 west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 5, 1884.

John Turton, certificate No. 4,832, at the Worthington land office was laid on the west half of the northeast quarter of section 12, township 105, range 32 west, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

INDIAN ATROCITIES.

Simon Poland was wounded and his step-son, Christian, killed by the Indians in 1863. His wife and son Tosten were also severely wounded and left for dead, but recovered and fled with other settlers to Butternut Valley. Others who settled here in the early sixties were Mads Olson Boxrud, Herman Madison, John and Haakon Martin and Ole Palme. To give an idea

of the hardships which the settlers of that time had to endure, it is only necessary to say that there was not a foot of railroad in Minnesota in the early fifties. The nearest flouring-mills were at Kasota. Mankato and South Bend were the nearest trading points. When it was necessary to make a long journey, several would go together so that when any bad place had to be crossed, three or four ox teams could be hitched to one wagon and thus pull it through. There were no bridges over the Blue Earth or Watonwan rivers, and scarcely a ford; and as for roads, the people chose the lines of least resistance. There was a mail route between Mankato and Sioux City, and a postoffice was established in the Rosendale settlement, Nils Torsen being the first postmaster. Jens Torsen was the first mail carrier; afterwards Hans Johnson Berdell and Jacob Thorvaldson acted in the same capacity. In the summer time the mail carrier rode a pony. When the water was too deep to wade, he fastened the mail sack over his head, drove the horse into the water, clinging to his neck with one hand and paddling with the other, and thus swimming across. In winter the carriers generally used snow shoes or skis, for the weather was too uncertain to permit the use of horses, and there were long stretches of country where no shelter was to be found. When the mail carrier was overtaken by a snowstorm he burrowed in a snow bank and stayed there until the storm was over. There was a settlement at Jackson and another at Spirit Lake. At these two stations the carriers stopped to leave and to receive mail. Between stations they stopped at Indian encampments for food and rest.

In the spring of 1857 news came from Spirit Lake and Jackson that the Indians had risen and killed many people. A great many people living in the vicinity of Long Lake fled to Isaac Slocum's place and took refuge in his log house. However, no Indians appeared at this time. This was called the Impadutahs war, as that chief led the Indians. In the fall of 1862 came the time of trial for the settlers, as the Indians under the leadership of Little Crow began to attack the frontier settlements in Minnesota and Iowa, murdering and plundering and committing frightful outrages. News of the attack on New Ulm reached the settlers and their thoughts were turned to defense or flight. The Indians were sulking in the woods and in the tall prairie grass, ready to shoot down any defenseless settlers whom they might see. At Nils Torsen's place there were gathered Jacob Thorvaldsen, George Knudson and Maria Torsen Overig. Two Indians emerged from the woods nearby and opened fire, wounding Knudson in the arm. While the Indians were reloading, Knudson and Mrs. Overig ran for a cornfield and hid there

until it became dark. Under cover of the night they made their way to Madelia and took refuge with Ole Jorgenson. Thorvaldsen ran for the timber and followed the river to Madelia expecting to be shot by the Indians at any moment. Ole Jorgenson and Knud Knudson went to Knud Larson's after horses and on the way were shot at by two Indians, Jorgenson receiving a bullet in his left shoulder and a slight wound in the left cheek.

While the Indians were reloading Ole and Knud ran behind a knoll and succeeded in concealing themselves so that the savages passed by without seeing them. Jorgenson ran to a slough where there was tall grass and lay on his back in the water with only his head sticking out. Knudson hid in another patch of grass and reached Madelia the next day. Jorgenson remained longer in hiding and was picked up by some soldiers on their way to Madelia to aid the settlers in defense against the Indians. When he first saw the soldiers he took them for Indians and fled, but, perceiving his mistake, returned and went with them to Madelia. The Indians stole four horses from Knud Larsen and one from Ole Jorgenson.

STOCKADES ERECTED.

Afterwards more soldiers were sent and more stockades were built at Madelia, Lake Hanska, North Branch; Ole Jorgenson's house was used as a fort by the soldiers and another stockade was built in Long Lake, on the south side of the river. The troops having established posts and patrols through the country, the settlers took courage and returned to their homes, believing that the Indians would not venture to renew their attack in the face of so formidable a force. This was, however, a mistaken notion; for quite unexpectedly the redskins made a raid on Long Lake in 1863, killing five men and wounding several others and taking whatever property was of value to them. Ole Palme and Gabriel Ellingson had ventured to Mink Lake to trap and fish and on their return were attacked by the Indians near Kansas Lake and slain. Ole Palme's head was severed from his body and set on a pole. Troops afterwards found the head and buried it with the mangled body. Guldorand Palmeson was killed near Long Lake. He had a fish spear with him at the time and the savages took it and ran it through his body. His wife took their three children and fled to the stockades. In order to reach it she was obliged to cross the river on a fallen log, carrying a child under each arm and one clinging about her neck and shoulders. The Indians saw her, but forbore to pursue. They laughed at the sight and let the fugitives go unharmed.

Ole Palme's children, Petera, Taar and four-year-old Inga came crying to Lars Halvorson Langemyers early one morning and reported that the Indians were coming. Lars ran to the stable for a horse, but found that all his horses had been taken. He with his wife and the Palme children then started on foot for the fort. The Indians met them on the way, but did not harm them, although they plundered the house and destroyed all the property.

Salve Torgenson had gone away from home, but left two soldiers, one of whom was named Monson, to protect his family. Some Indians came to the place early on the morning of April 19, before anyone was out of bed and fired through the windows, severely wounding Mrs. Torgenson. The soldiers sprang from their beds to get their weapons, but before they could make any resistance Monson was shot dead and the other man wounded. The wounded soldier, however, got his musket and succeeded in frightening the skulking redskins away. Mrs. Torgenson's wound was dangerous and she came near bleeding to death before she could reach the fort, a quarter of a mile away. With the aid of the soldier, himself wounded, she succeeded in reaching the fort, and it was not long before she was strong and well again.

EARLY CONDITIONS DESCRIBED.

By George M. Johnson.

Away back in the years of 1857 and 1858, while the territory now included in Watonwan county was still a part of Brown county, these beautiful prairies lay waving with green grass and wild flowers, without a human habitation, save an occasional Indian tepee. There was nothing to indicate the advent of the white man except the stakes and mounds erected by the government surveyors to mark the divisions of the land, which was then being divided into sections and quarter sections by a party of men among whom was M. K. Armstrong.

The state had just been admitted to the union and there was at that time a prevailing spirit of adventure and speculation. Early in 1858 there came to these parts a colony of young Englishmen who claimed all the timbered lands and proposed to found a great city at the end of Long Lake and call it New London, or New Glory, or some other high-sounding name, to attract more settlers. They proposed to build a canal from the lake to the river and provide it with locks to conserve the water and use the lake as a huge dam to run a saw-mill, a grist-mill and other machinery.

There were at this time a few settlers around the present site of Madelia

and also along the river in Rosendale and Riverdale townships. The rest of the territory was practically a wilderness. And as the Indians only made periodic visits each spring and fall for the purpose of hunting and fishing, the colonists were for the most part "monarchs of all they surveyed." One of these colonists, whose name was John Kensie, was a scholarly gentleman and of a well-to-do family in England. He had a wife and three or four children and built a log hut on the south side of the grove, by the lake, which still bears his name, though in a distorted form, "Kansas Lake." The original and historic name is Kensie's Lake.

The other English colonists, who were nearly all unmarried men, without property and quite unwilling to work, were soon reduced to the necessity of subsisting on corn bread and gopher soup, and as these substances became luxuries, the colonists were soon compelled to seek "other fields and pastures green" and the contemplated city—which was never built—with its high sounding name, fell flat.

John Kensie, who remained at Kensie's Lake long enough to make many friends among the sturdy Norwegian settlers, who soon occupied the lands vacated by his English comrades, was the last to vacate his claim—about 1860. During the winter of 1859 and 1860 this venerable gentleman was employed as teacher among the settlers, and was the first teacher in this part of the county.

NORWEGIAN SETTLERS.

The Norwegian settlers did not come in a colony, but in families, one at a time. Hans Johnson's family being the first, in 1858, was permitted by the colonists to settle on section 21, where there was timber enough for one family. Other settlers soon moved in and took up the vacated claims of the colonists along the river. They brought with them a yoke of oxen, a cow or two, a wagon and some household goods. They built log huts and log stables and proceeded to till the soil on a small scale, as best they could. They raised sod corn and potatoes, and in later years wheat and garden truck, including the famous "homestead tobacco," whose flavor was only to be experienced to be remembered. The settlers had no knowledge of the method of curing the tobacco leaves and although they grew both long and broad and looked very fine, they had a raw, pungent flavor that was abominable.

Fish and wild game such as geese, ducks and prairie chickens were more abundant than now, and formed a considerable part of the food supply for

the settlers. The rabbit which is now so common, was entirely unknown. Lack of ammunition was a great drawback. The settlers had nothing to sell except a few raw furs. Mankato was the nearest place where supplies could be bought, and it took from five to seven days with an ox team to make the round trip. These trips had to be limited to about two in a year and the strictest economy had to be practiced in everything. Tea was substituted by native herbs and coffee by roasted wheat, rye, corn, etc. Twenty-five cents worth of sugar was often a year's supply for a family.

Tallow dips for candles and a cotton wick with a little lard in a shallow dish for a lamp, were the only means of lighting. The men wore home-made shoes, shirts and pantaloons, while calico dresses were "all in style" among the women. Yet, the settlers, under these conditions, were quite happy, for they were all equal and free. They visited and loved one another, as good neighbors should. They had no rent to pay, no burdensome taxes and no mortgages to worry over. They were not held up by the coal trust and had no high tariff to pay on anything. They certainly had good reasons for being happy, which the present generation does not possess.

In 1860 the settlers caught the spirit of the national campaign and songs of "Old Abe" and Stephen A. Douglas were heard in every hut. "Old Abe" was the hero and Stephen A. Douglas was the butt of all the jokes.

Lincoln was elected President, the Southern states seceded and the Civil War broke out. At the first call for troops John Peterson, a young bachelor, who had settled on section 28, enlisted and went south never to return. But the great disaster of the little settlement came in 1862, when the Indian massacre broke out at New Ulm. One August morning, at six o'clock, a messenger brought the news of the Indian outbreak. As there was no means of defense against a possible attack of the Indians, the settlers moved in a body to the settlement in Rosendale township. Here they scattered; some families moved eastward to get settled for the winter, while others remained to await developments.

After a few weeks there was a lull in the Indian trouble. A company of soldiers was stationed in this township and proceeded to build a fort and a stockade on section 23. Relying on the protection of the fort and its soldiers, some of the settlers moved back to their homes in the fall of 1862. But in the spring of 1863, early in April, they were surprised by a band of Indians who raided the settlement from east to west, killing five persons, including one of the soldiers, and wounding six persons. After this tragedy the settlement was wholly abandoned until 1866, when peace and safety were

completely restored. Only two families of the original settlers ever returned to make their homes in this township after the restoration of peace—Hans Johnson with his family in August, 1866, and R. Danielson, in the spring of 1868.

DR. HAYNES' RECOLLECTIONS.

A few years since, Dr. Haynes, of St. James, wrote as follows: Rasmus Danielson, one of the early settlers of Long Lake, had some interesting experiences in the Indian outbreak in 1862. He lived on a farm near the river and says that one evening in August, 1862, two men came to his house and told him to leave as soon as he could, as the Indians were on the war-path. His wagon was standing in the yard with some hay on it. He got his team out and started off in a northerly direction, toward Ole Jorgenson's place. When they got there, everyone was gone. There was nothing to stop for, so Mr. Danielson drove cross country to Shelbyville. They stayed there about two weeks, along with other refugees, who had fled from the wrath of the red men. They afterwards went to Iowa, remained about a year.

In the spring a stockade was constructed by the soldiers on the spot where Cereal postoffice afterward stood, and the house and buildings in the surrounding country were taken by the troops for material for the "fort." When Mr. Danielson returned from the army in which he entered in 1863, he brought in a claim against the state of Minnesota for the loss of his property, but it was not paid until the last session of the Legislature, when attorney J. L. Lobben presented it and got six hundred dollars by a special act for Mr. Danielson.

THE VILLAGE OF ORMSBY.

This village is partly in Martin and partly in Watonwan counties. It is an incorporated village of about one hundred and fifty people. It was platted in section 32, township 105, range 32 west, by Harry L. and Anna L. Jenkins, October 14, 1890. It is a station on the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad and was probably named after Colonel Ormsby, of Emmetsburg, Iowa.

In 1910 the following business interests were represented:

Bank—Farmers State.

Barber—W. A. Urhback.

Elevator—Stockdale and Dietz Elevator Company.

General Dealer—Christian Jensen.

Hardware—A. G. Dushinske.

Implements—Hans M. Vagstad.

Telephone—Tri-state.

The above includes only those doing business in Watonwan county.

One of the commendable organizations of this village and community is the Farmers Club, of which Mr. S. P. Stoffer is president. The club meets every two weeks in the village, usually at the school building. A definite program is usually given by members of the club, followed by a lunch and social hour.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Ormsby became an incorporated town in 1902. The first elective officers were as follow: President, Sam. Farver; trustees, H. M. Vagstad, J. F. Northdurft, A. Ingold; recorder, F. H. Clark.

The present elective officers are as follow: President, R. H. Mueller; trustees, T. A. Parsons, C. Jensen, W. F. Leniberg; recorder, H. M. Vagstad.

A pressing need of fire protection caused the town to seek an unlimited supply of water. Consequently in 1902 a well was driven just north of town to a depth of three hundred feet at which point an unlimited flow of water was found. The cost was about four hundred dollars. Reservoirs, five in number, were placed beneath the surface of the ground at various places in the town and connected by pipes. Each reservoir contains one hundred gallons. A hand engine and five hundred feet of fire hose were bought at a cost of five hundred dollars. The fire company is composed of men who volunteer their services. The town has about six blocks of well improved cement sidewalks.

MADELIA TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the original civil townships of Watonwan county, and now comprises congressional township No. 107, range 30 west. It is the northeast township in the county and is six miles square in extent. It is the seat of the old county seat, the village by the same name having been chosen such by the state authorities in organizing this county in 1860. At first it embraced all the territory in Watonwan county, but year after year, as the county was settled up, other sub-divisions were cut out of its territory,

until at last it came to embrace only its present thirty-six sections, same as all others of the county. From section 30, to section 13, runs the main line of the old St. Paul & Sioux City railroad, now the property of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad. The station point on this road, within this township, as now described, is the village of Madelia, in sections 22 and 27. Among the numerous lakes and lakelets in Madelia township are School Lake, in sections 9, 16 and 17; Hopkins Lake, in sections 13 and 14; Lau Lake, in sections 13 and 25, and Bedje Lake, in sections 12, 13 and 14.

The principal stream of the township is Watonwan river, flowing from west to east, entering section 19 and leaving the township and county from section 36. This has smaller streams as its tributaries, and this causes the topography of the township to be somewhat more broken than other parts of Watonwan county.

Of recent years the township has a small mileage of a branch of the railroad system above mentioned, which is a feeder running from the village of Madelia to Fairmont, which line is almost an air line running north and south. It leaves the main line at the west of Madelia and runs directly south and out of the township from section 33 over into Fieldon township. Between two and three miles of this railroad are in Madelia township.

In 1890 this township had a population of 541; in 1900 it had 651, and in 1910 the last United States census gave it as having a population of 574, exclusive of the village of Madelia.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The following list of the very earliest settlers at Madelia and in Madelia township is as follows, as recalled by Mr. Estes: S. B. Estes, William Estes, J. Flanders, James Glispen, C. N. Pomeroy, section 2, Madelia; Messrs. Hartshorn, Sheppard and Haire, Jonathan and Caleb Leavitt, William Gilbert, H. Hoge, M. Olson, John C. Sprague, C. I. Ash, D. R. Bill, J. S. Benear, J. N. Cheney, J. A. Clark, James H. Cornwell, J. T. Furber, H. J. Gilbert, J. A. Gieriet, W. Golden, William H. Witham, James Hopkins, H. D. Joy, H. C. King, B. O. Kempfer, section 28; A. Kinzzell, M. E. Mullen, Charles Mullen, Helge Polmeson, section 19; John M. Robb, Thomas Rutledge, B. C. Sanborn, T. C. Serving, section 2; T. L. Vought (Flanders Hotel), H. B. Wadsworth, A. J. Nickolson, O. E. Winnestrand, John Chase (an army veteran), J. T. Mitchell, Samuel Driggers, J. Travis, James P. Haycraft and Siver N. Fjelsta.

LANDS ENTERED BY WARRANTS.

Among the interesting land entries found in the books of the register of deeds in the court house at St. James are the following:

Patent No. 1 is issued on a soldier's script warrant to Lydia Russell, widow of Stephen Russell, seaman gunboat No. 128, flotilla service, War of 1812, and is warrant No. 70,036, and was laid on the northwest quarter of section 28, township 107, range 30 west, at the St. Peter land office. It was by her assigned to Bernard O. Kempffer, and the document is signed by President James Buchanan, who caused the seal of the general land office to be attached to the same, and states that it was given at the City of Washington, D. C., November 10, 1850. This appears as the first warrant for lands taken up in Watonwan county.

Land warrant No. 80,708—Bounty lands to soldiers of the United States military service, for one hundred and sixty acres in the west half of the northwest quarter of section 26, township 107, range 30, on account of services had in the Seminole Indian War. It was issued to H. P. Gilbert by Abraham Lincoln, President, June 1st, 1861, and signed by him, as well as by secretary, W. F. Stoddard. Mr. Gilbert secured it from the guardian of an Indian girl, whose father was a loyal warrior in war in Florida. This is in Madelia township.

Land warrant No. 93,147, for a quarter of section 22, township 107, range 30, in favor of Joseph B. Brown, a private in Captain Candee's company, New York militia, in the War of 1812, was patented by President Abraham Lincoln, June 1, 1861. This is within Madelia township.

Patent No. 49,011, for a quarter of sections 20 and 21, township 107, range 30, was granted to Richard Russel, a private in Captain Jeffry's company, Ohio militia, in the War of 1812, and is signed by President A. Lincoln, June 1, 1861.

A pre-emption claim was filed as No. 6,175, by James H. Hazer, at the St. Peter land office, and is described as being the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 14, township 107, range 30, and is signed by President Andrew Johnson. This is situated in Madelia township.

Land patent No. 55,155, for a hundred and sixty acres, was in favor of Elizabeth F. Cummings, widow of Stephen Murphet, private in Captain Holt's company, Massachusetts militia, in the War of 1812. It was laid on the northwest quarter of section 32, township 107, range 30 west, and issued from the St. Peter land office and signed by President James Buchanan.

Military warrant, under the act of Congress approved in 1855, giving land warrant to soldiers and sailors in the various wars of this country, and bearing the number of 60,664, is on a quarter section, granted to John England, teamster in the quartermaster's department, War of 1812, and is described as lots one, two and seven in section 11, township 107, range 30, in Madelia township, the same being signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862.

Another warrant, under the above act, was laid on a hundred acres in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 25, township 107, range 30 west, and is numbered 49,216, and signed by President James Buchanan, March 15, 1860. It was in favor of Thomas Platt, ensign in Captain McComb's company of Pennsylvania militiamen, in the War of 1812.

Mexican War scrip was held by Sarah McKenzie, mother of George McKenzie, private in Captain Duff's company, Third regiment, United States dragoons, and was in shape of a warrant No. 80,168, and bears date of October, 1847, and the land was secured in this county.

Another warrant for a quarter section of land was laid on the northwest quarter of section 27, township 107, range 30, Madelia township, in favor of Henry G. Hammond, private in Captain Vaughn's company, Massachusetts militia, in the War of 1812. It is signed by President James Buchanan and is numbered 36,573.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES.

By an act of Congress in May, 1862, any citizen of this country upon the payment of a filing fee of fourteen dollars, might obtain free of charge a quarter section of land outside railroad limits and eighty acres inside, by residing on it five years and making the common farm improvements on same. In this township the following, with possibly a few such homestead entries were made, and today the tracts of land thus secured are among the most valuable in the county.

No. 1 was made by Halvor Erickson, at the land office at St. Peter, March 1, 1870, and was signed by President U. S. Grant, and it was for the southeast half of the northeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 30 west.

One granted to Wilson Winters, a certificate No. 1,614, for the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 30 west. This was signed by President U. S. Grant, August 10, 1872.

The east half of the southeast quarter of section 6, township 107, range

30 west, was homesteaded to Else Nilsson by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

Certificate No. 7,369, at the New Ulm land office, was granted to Jacob B. K. McCurdy, on the northwest quarter of section 30, township 107, range 30. This was signed by President U. S. Grant, November 1, 1875.

Certificate No. 5,387, at the Tracy land office, was issued to J. Sawartzky, on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 30, township 107, range 30 west, and was signed by Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, April 27, 1885.

On February 22, 1865, application No. 1,957, for a homestead in this county, was filed by William H. Pickett, after paying the filing fee of fourteen dollars, for the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 18, township 107, range 30 west. This was effected at the St. Peter land office.

On February 1, 1865, a homestead claim was filed by Thomas Clark in the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 14, township 107, range 30 west, and its number was 1,918. This was in Madelia township.

On February 22, 1865, at St. Peter land office, a homestead was laid on the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 30 west, by Robert M. Gist.

Wilson Winters homesteaded at the St. Peter land office, August 13, 1866, the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 30 west.

Daniel Winters took, on May 20, 1862, pre-emption claim No. 3,198, in the northwest of the northeast of section 18, township 107, range 30, in Madelia township.

United States to Ole W. Martin, from the New Ulm land office, patent filed on September 23, 1885, on the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter, section 2, township 107, range 30 west, including eighty acres. This homestead entry was made and signed by President U. S. Grant, January 27, 1873.

VILLAGE OF MADELIA.

Madelia was platted in 1857 in the northeast portion of the county. It is one hundred and ten miles from St. Paul and one hundred and fifty-nine miles from Sioux City, Iowa. It is on the Watonwan river, in sections 22 and 27, township 107, range 30 west. Its proprietors were Messrs. Hartshorn, Shepard and Haire, and it derived its name from that of the daughter "Madelia" of General Hartshorn and wife. Here, three log and one small

frame house were erected; also a steam saw-mill by Jonathan and Caleb Leavitt.

In 1862, during the Sioux uprising, all of the settlers fled to Mankato for refuge and some never returned to be permanent settlers again. But after the massacre was ended and quiet was again restored in southern Minnesota, many returned and went to work. These families who returned were for a time protected by a company of cavalry under Captain E. St. Julian Cox, whose men built an improvised fort for the settlement's protection.

POSTOFFICE.

This office is one among the first to be established in this section of the state. At the present time it is a second-class office, with five rural routes. Among the postmasters that have served are the following: G. Yates, C. W. Kendall, Carl Scot, C. W. Mullen, T. F. Goor, J. E. Haycraft, Julia Holly and E. L. Goor.

EARLY BUSINESS FACTORS.

There were two or three efforts to establish stores in Madelia previous to the one opened by Yates Brothers. Of one of these Mr. Louis Roberts, of St. Paul, was the proprietor. These were temporary efforts, however, and did not last even by succession.

In the fall of 1867 Mr. C. L. Richardson erected a store building and put in a stock of goods. This he continued to occupy until the summer of 1870, when Boyton & Cheney, who were in business at Garden City, purchased his stock and established a branch store. This firm continued in business until the spring of 1872, when it was dissolved, Mr. Cheney taking the store and moved his family to Madelia. At the same time he enlarged his building and put in an excellent assortment of general merchandise.

Mr. Ransom, who was engaged in blacksmithing, remodeled his shop into a store in the summer of 1868 and put in a small stock of hardware and other goods. In March, 1869, he sold to Estes & Hopkins, who continued in the business until the next September, when Hopkins sold his interest to Christian Heigum. The firm continued under this name until the spring of 1872, when Christian disposed of his interests to H. C. King and John M. Robb, forming the firm of Estes, King & Company. This firm



VIEWS ON MAIN STREET, MADELLA.

removed their stock to Mr. Estes' building in the fall and in the following spring Estes retired, leaving the firm as King & Robb.

With the approach of the railroad the prospects of the town began to improve fast and when the iron horse reached there in the summer of 1870 the town was all astir putting up places for business. One of those who came at this time was M. E. Dunn, from Lake Crystal. He opened a store, consisting of general merchandise, in the block just erected by H. S. Willson, where he soon built up a good trade, part of the time having two clerks besides himself. In connection with his store he received the appointment of local agent for the express company, a position that he held for a long time. He was also a grain buyer, but this business did not keep him very busy because there was very little grain grown at that date. He identified himself fully with the town by purchasing the store building and stock of Howes & Lamper, corner of Main and St. Paul streets. This was about the same time that Eckstorm Brothers & Brown removed their business from South Bend to Madelia. They erected a building on Main street and kept it well filled with a stock of merchandise. At the same time came O. H. Davis, who had formerly been in business at Mankato, and built his store for hardware on the corner of Main and Willson streets.

The first regular drug store in Madelia was opened by Bill & Barton, who came from Garden City and purchased a building on Main street, near St. Paul street, which place they fitted up for the purpose. Later, the firm became known as Bill & Moore.

Dr. G. H. Overholt had a good stock of drugs and medicines next door to the "Pioneer" store. His store was established by the firm of Adams & Langdon about 1856.

In 1870 Jerome Patterson came from Mankato to open a jewelry store. His store was on the corner of Main and St. Paul streets. Next door to him was the first harness shop, started by William Seeger, who came from Lake Crystal. He sold his interests in a few years to G. A. Gieriet.

Mrs. Frizzell opened a millinery store, first occupying rooms in the building of Mr. Wickersham used as a drug store. In a few years she became so prosperous that she purchased the building and continued in the same business on a more extensive scale.

In 1873 Mrs. D. Brayton opened a shop of the same kind, adding dress-making as a side line. Almost at the same time, Mrs. Scoville opened a dress-making shop, but was soon succeeded by the Misses Williams and Hamill.

The first restaurant was opened by J. G. Jefts in 1870. It was not

many months until he sold out to A. S. Davis, he in turn selling to S. P. Driggers.

Among the larger mercantile firms of the early period was that of Bisbee & Olson. Because of the fact that both men were so well and favorably known they built up a trade that extended far and wide, thus becoming one of the most stable and prosperous firms in this section of the state. The firm remained intact for several years, until Mr. Bisbee retired from business.

With the increase in population and in the number of homes came a demand for house furnishings, which led to the establishment of a furniture store by James Smith, who sold to W. R. Marvin.

At an early date Joseph Flanders erected a hotel and in 1870 improved and enlarged it. In 1873 he sold the building to T. L. Vought, who continued the business. In 1870 a company built the Northern Hotel, which was purchased in 1872 by H. Delling, who changed the name to the Delling House.

The early implement dealers were George Yates, A. Frizzell and H. T. Odegaid. The first shoe shop was conducted by A. Knudson. The first tailor was A. M. Anderson.

The first lumber yard was that of J. Dean & Company, established about 1874. About the same time a grain elevator was built with a capacity of thirty thousand bushels. T. C. Peart was the manager.

In 1888 Warren Golden erected a flour-mill on the river and for many years this mill supplied not only Watonwan county, but many surrounding counties with flour and corn meal.

In the early days there was great need of a blacksmith shop, and in the fall of 1865 J. Flanders gave a lot to S. P. Driggers, who at once erected a shop sixteen feet square and rented it to E. D. Miller for one year. The time expiring, Mr. Driggers sold the property to G. R. Ransom, who built a small addition for a wagon shop and continued in that business about a year, when he decided to start a hardware store. He enlarged the building to sixteen by thirty and added a story above. He started business under the name of G. R. Ransom & Company, and continued until 1869, when the goods and premises were sold to William Estes and J. Hopkins. This firm continued until the following September, when Mr. Hopkins retired and C. Tergum bought his interest. Finally, Tergum sold his interest to H. C. King and John Robb.

Among the early physicians were Dr. Overholt, Dr. W. H. Woods and Dr. Christopherson.

The early lawyers were T. Rutledge, H. S. Willson, F. D. Jay and W. H. H. Johnson.

The first resident clergy were Rev. N. A. Trobridge, of the Methodist church, Rev. J. W. Van Eman, of the Presbyterian church, and Father Cunningham, of the Catholic church.

In 1871 the amount of improvements for the year amounted to ten thousand dollars; in 1872 to twenty-one thousand seven hundred and five dollars, thus showing how rapidly the town improved in its infancy.

The first Indian fort was down in the "flat," but this was soon discarded and another built on the lot just north of where the Methodist church now stands, so that the occupants might have a better view of the prairie and thereby ward off attacks from the Indians. These forts, built of logs, were small and acted merely as a refuge for the settlers. The main fort was known as Fort Hill, and was located near Hanska, on the farm now owned by Ole Sonstebj. Government troops were stationed in and around the forts for nearly two years, but fortunately very little trouble took place with the Indians.

VILLAGE OF MADELIA IN 1885-6.

From an old directory it is learned that the following were in trade and professional life at Madelia in 1885-6:

Ash, George H.—Capitalist.

Bank of Madelia—Joseph Flanke, banker; transacted a general banking and exchange business.

Benton, A. H.—Dealer in general merchandise and farm machinery of all kinds.

Bill, Brothers—Dealers in drugs, medicines, books and fancy goods.

Bisbee, Olson & Boynton—Dealers in general merchandise and farm implements, and buyers of all kinds of grain.

Brenneis, P. A.—Proprietor of Madelia Brewery.

Cheney, J. N.—Dealer in general merchandise, groceries, crockery, dry goods, clothing, etc. and breeder of short-horn cattle, Norman horses and Berkshire hogs.

Cook & Holmes—Contractors and builders.

Cooley, Dr. C. O.—Physician and surgeon.

Cooley, Charles—Attorney-at-law; loans, insurance and real estate.

Delling, George W.—Photographer.

Estes Brothers—Dealers in farm machinery, wagons, etc.; also Short-horn cattle and Berkshire swine.

Evenson, C.—Dealer in wines, liquors and cigars.

Flanders Hotel—A. E. Fisher, proprietor.

Gieriet, J. A.—Manufacturer of and dealer in harness, collars, whips, trunks and buffalo robes.

Gilbert, H. P.—Proprietor to Gilbert's Addition to Madelia.

Gleason, F. C.—Assistant railroad agent and operator.

Gove & Kendrick—Lumber, sash, doors, etc.; also wood, coal, lime and farm implements.

Hage, Siver—Dealer in lumber, sash, doors, coal and wood.

Haycraft, S. P.—Dray line.

Hopkins, D. C.—Attorney-at-law; real estate.

Mitchell Brothers—Proprietors of the Madelia flouring-mills.

Mullen, C. G.—Dealer in stationery, confectionery, etc.

Rohe, Adolph—Dealer in wines, liquors, beer, etc.

Sidler, H. C.—Dealer in watches, clocks, jewelry and plated ware.

Times, Madelia—D. C. Sanborn, proprietor and publisher.

Wadsworth, H. B.—Capitalist.

Witham, W. H.—Dealer in furniture and undertakers' goods.

LARGE FLOURING-MILL.

Madelia can easily boast of having the largest flour-mill in the county. The mill was founded by its present owner, Mr. C. S. Christensen, and under his management "Madelia's Best" has become known far and wide. The products are marketed throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and the central states. The daily capacity of the mill is seven hundred barrels of flour. Seven grain elevators, scattered throughout the country, belong to the same firm. In all, thirty-five people are given employment.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Madelia was incorporated early in the seventies, and in 1873 the officers were as follow: William R. Marvin, president of the board of trustees; Joseph Flanders, Henry C. King, trustees; Jens Thorson, treasurer; F. D. Jay, clerk.

The 1916 municipal officers were: William Schaloben, president; J. P. Garber, Nils Fjelsta, Theodore A. Tollerson, trustees; M. S. Dossett, treasurer; F. H. Hillesheim, clerk.

The village has an indebtedness of sixteen thousand dollars and has



CATHOLIC SCHOOL, MADELIA.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, MADELIA.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MADELIA.



FARM HOME NEAR MADELIA.

made many substantial improvements in the last few years to show for this indebtedness. They have a fine water-works system, costing nine thousand dollars; two deep wells; water is pumped by electricity to a ninety-thousand-gallon steel tank. The electric lighting is had by a private corporation, known as the Madelia Electric Company. The volunteer fire department consists of thirty volunteers. The public park is a full block of ground covered with fine artificial trees. The village jail is twenty foot square and has two cells.

BIG CONFLAGRATION.

Probably one of the worst fires that Madelia ever experienced occurred on the night of October 31, 1877. The fire had its origin in the rear of Eskstrom Brothers & Brown's store, and was thought by some to be of incendiary origin. The fire destroyed the building occupied by the milliner, Mrs. Frizzell, the building west of Eckstrom's owned by Mr. Brayton, the H. S. Willson block and with it the valuable library of Attorney Willson; the building occupied by George P. Johnson and the store of M. E. Mullen. The loss was estimated at five to six thousand dollars, with no insurance. All those who were burned out were fortunate enough to secure places in which to continue their business.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN 1916.

Auto Garage—Forster Brothers, Madelia Motor Company, W. W. Cole & Son.

Attorney—C. J. Eide.

Banks—State Bank, First National Bank.

Barber Shops—Howard L. Driggers, Frank Kitchen.

Blacksmith Shops—Axel Hanson, R. H. Thomas, Toffef Paterson.

Bakery—Hale & Sons.

Brick and Tile Plant—Madelia Cement and Tile Company.

Clothing—Hodapp-Nelson Company.

Creamery—Madelia Creamery Company.

Druggist—Madelia Drug and Jewelry Company.

Dray—L. L. Hall, V. E. Tate.

Dentist—L. T. Austin, Edwin A. Hagaman, W. H. Shaver.

Elevator—C. S. Christensen Company, Hubbard & Palmer.

Electric Light Plant—T. J. McGovern.

Furniture Dealers—McDowell & Company, Schuletz Brothers.

Feed Store—C. S. Christensen Company.

Grocers—J. P. Hale & Sons, W. A. Mullen.

General Dealers—Sever Larson, Mathias Olson, Frank Mullen.

Hotels—The Noonan, The Madelia.

Hardware—Charles B. Cooley, Charles R. Klatt, Parr & Bork Hardware Company.

Harness—J. A. Gierist, H. Joerg & Son.

Ice Dealers—Rockwood & Austin.

Implements—Parr & Bork Hardware Company, Charles R. Klatt, Charles H. Cooley.

Lumber Dealers—S. Hage Lumber Company, Henry Simmons Lumber Company.

Livery—William U. Montgomery.

Mill—C. S. Christensen Company.

Millinery—Marie A. Hillesheim.

Meat Markets—C. J. Hammond, Hodapp & Lamm.

Marble Works—James J. Tighe.

Merchant Tailor—Cornelius Blumenkamper.

Newspapers—*Madelia Times-Messenger*, *Madelia News*.

Notions—George A. Kline.

Physicians—William J. McCarthy, Henry B. Grimes.

Picture Show—The Wonderland.

Photographic Gallery—Wilson Sisters.

Produce Dealers—E. England, George Rohe.

Restaurants—A. F. Lodes, Hale & Sons.

Real Estate Dealers—M. C. Solensten, C. E. Brown Land Company, William Schaleben & Company.

Shoe Store—August Simonett.

Stock Buyers—F. Moses, Madelia Farmers' Shipping Association, C. J. Hammond.

Telephones—Tri-State, Madelia Telephone Company, North Western Telephone Company.

Veterinary—Francis P. Burke, Clayton Butler, Homer C. Butler.

Madelia is one of the few towns in the county that is really on a boom. Not a dwelling or store building in the town is vacant and new buildings of all kinds are being constructed as fast as carpenters can get them up. The best booster of the town is the Commercial Club, composed of all the enterprising and wide-awake business men. The officers are as follow: Presi-

dent, Henry Hillesheim; vice-president, L. T. Austin; secretary, F. Morris; treasurer, C. T. Dahl. There is also a Business Men's Association, the purpose of which is the safeguarding and protecting of the merchants' interests. Madelia is the only town in the county that has an annual chautauqua for its citizens and the surrounding community.

BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

The Business Men's Association of Madelia was organized on November 2, 1915, with the following officers: C. S. Christensen, president; Frank Hodapp, vice-president; George Hage, treasurer; C. J. Eide, secretary. The motive that led to the organization was the desire to meet in a satisfactory way the destructful competition of mail order houses, to make fairer prices for the consumer, to overcome ruinous competition, to welcome all newcomers, to investigate the financial standing of people, for the purpose of extending credit when necessary.

MADELIA FARMERS' MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

This insurance company was organized on June 14, 1887, and its present officers are as follows: George Busser, president; Charles Tiegren, vice-president; James T. Reynolds, secretary; O. M. Howe, treasurer. The company now carries risks to the total amount of five million dollars. There are at present two thousand policy-holders. The territory covered by the company is all of Watonwan county and twenty-seven townships in the surrounding counties. The rate per thousand dollars of insured property is two dollars. This company is operated purely on the mutual plan. Only farm risks are taken, and the farmers in five counties take great interest in it.

NELSON TOWNSHIP.

On the north line of the county and second from the western border is Nelson township, which comprises all of congressional township 107, range 32 west. It is situated south of Brown county, west of Riverdale township, north of St. James township and east of Adrian township. It is six miles square and contains thirty-six full sections of beautiful prairie land, well watered and drained by numerous small prairie streams. These watercourses include tributaries to the main stream known as the Waton-

wan river, which courses from west to east through this part of the county. There are no villages or railroads within this township, but public school buildings are found in sections 8, 12, 20 and 26.

The population of this township in 1900 was eight hundred and six, but the census of 1910 gives it at six hundred and eighty-four, owing to great migration to other parts during that decade.

ORGANIZATION.

Nelson township was organized by the board of county commissioners in September, 1870, out of the territory embraced in congressional township 107, ranges 32 and 33, thus including present Adrian township, which was organized the next spring. This whole part of the county had previously been included in Riverdale civil township. Later in the same month in which this new township was created, the commissioners gave it at first the name of North Branch, subsequently changing its name to "Dexter." Some time later it was changed to Nelson. The county commissioners in 1902 caused a re-survey of the lands within this township, at the expense of owners.

SETTLEMENT.

Swan Beck and Ole Blackstad were among the first pioneers in this township.

Jacob Harder, certificate No. 5,381, at the land office at Tracy, the south half of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President Grover Cleveland, signed on April 27, 1885.

John Earlson, No. 2,888, at the New Ulm land office, the east half of the southwest quarter of section 26, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 20, 1882.

Charles Verner, certificate No. 2,494, at the New Ulm land office, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 30, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on January 5, 1875.

Robert Rowland, certificate No. 2,507, at the New Ulm land office. This was issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on January 15, 1875.

Anders A. Hestlekrantz, the west half of the northwest quarter of section 6, township 107, range 32 west, signed by President Chester A. Arthur, 1883.

Anders Swenson, at the New Ulm land office, the east half of the

northwest quarter of section 8, township 107, range 32 west, signed by President U. S. Grant, August 15, 1876.

Gustaf Sjoquest, the north half of the southwest quarter of section 20, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed March 1, 1876.

Syver O. Tonde, certificate No. 5,330, at the Tracy land office, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President Grover Cleveland, January 9, 1886.

ODIN TOWNSHIP.

Odin is the extreme southwestern sub-division of Watonwan county and comprises all of congressional township 105, range 33, hence is six miles square, having thirty-six full sections of land. Odin is bounded on the west by Cottonwood county, on the north by Butterfield township, on the east by Long Lake township and on the south by Martin county.

This portion of Watonwan county has numerous lakes and large ponds, some of which are fed by springs and others are largely surface water, which, with the settling of the county and scientific drainage and tiling enterprises, are fast becoming extinct and are used for pasture and other agricultural purposes. Among the larger of these natural water sheets may be named in this connection: School Lake, Irish Lake and Sulem Lake. A few small prairie creeks or "runs" are found in various parts of the township. The soil is about the same quality for richness and fertility as the sister townships of Watonwan county. When thoroughly drained and properly tilled it will make one of the most valuable sections in southern Minnesota for both farming and dairying. The only village within this township is Odin, in section 20, a station on the branch line of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, running between Sanborn and Welcome, Minnesota, and which extends down into central Iowa. The railroad already mentioned runs through sections Nos. 2, 11, 14, 13, 24, 25 and 35.

The population of Odin township for the last three United States census enumeration periods has been: In 1890, 543; in 1900, 594, and in 1910, 604.

ORGANIZATION.

This township was organized by the board of county commissioners at their session in January, 1872, and was described as congressional township

105, range 33 west. Butterfield township was also made at the same meeting of the board of commissioners.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

E. Z. Rasey, a veteran of the Civil War, a member of the Thirty-second Wisconsin Regiment, who participated in twenty-one battles and skirmishes, but was fortunate in never being wounded, took a homestead in the east half of the northwest quarter and the east half of the southwest quarter of section 4, this township, in 1871. He has served as vice-commander of the Minnesota department of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1896 he sold his farm in Odin township and later moved to St. James, where he still resides. He was one of three to establish the present Farmers' Grain Company of St. James.

When interviewed concerning the early pioneers of Odin township, Mr. E. Z. Rasey gave the following as about the first to locate in the township:

Two brothers, Engbert and Sylvester Sulem, from Sweden, located here in 1868 in lots about the lake, and on lands in section 6. Sylvester was a well-educated man and was never married. He soon returned to his native country, while his brother remained.

John Arneson, a Norwegian, settled in 1869-70 in this township, and died many years ago in the township. Halvor Halvorson located in section 8, taking as a homestead the southwest quarter of that section. Later he moved from the county.

Ole Ormbeck settled on a homestead in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 8. Later he sold and removed to the state of Washington. Hans Munson settled in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 20 in 1868. He was from Norway and later retired at Butterfield.

John A. Johnson, a Swede, located in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 2. John Swanson located in the northwest quarter of section 2. John Olson, a Swede, settled in section 2.

Alfred Eckstrom located in the east half of the southwest quarter of section 2. John Lantz settled in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 2; he was from Sweden.

In 1870 came Eben Newell, located in the west half of the northwest quarter of section 4, and had land also in the west half of the southwest quarter of that section. He came from York state and moved to the state of Washington, where he subsequently died.

Another son of Norway located in Odin township in 1871—Andrew

Gilbertson, in the southwest quarter of section 18. Ira W. Bowen claimed a homestead in 1870, in the northwest quarter of section 18. He came from Wisconsin, remained until about 1885, then moved to the state of Washington, locating near Spokane. Samuel Rasey claimed the south half of the northeast quarter of section 4. He came from Wisconsin and later removed to Washington.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN ODIN TOWNSHIP.

August Erickson, certificate No. 8,571, at the Worthington land office, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 22, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on May 20, 1884.

Hans Ameson, certificate No. 6,531, at the Worthington land office, on the east half of the northwest quarter of section 14, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on August 1, 1883.

Martin Siverson, certificate No. 5,373, at the Worthington land office, on the east half of the southwest quarter of section 34, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on June 15, 1878.

Kasen Bentsen, certificate No. 8,656, on the south half of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 105, range 33, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

H. Olson, certificate No. 6,678, at the Worthington land office, the north half of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

Torkel Torkelson, at the Worthington land office, the south half of the northeast quarter of section 22, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on March 1, 1877.

A. A. Nass, certificate No. 5,802, at the Worthington land office, the west half of the northeast quarter of section 8, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President James A. Garfield, signed on April 9, 1881.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The first school house in Odin township was erected in 1873 in the center of section 8, and the first teacher was a Miss Josephine Doolittle, who later became the wife of Arthur Higgins, who lived on land purchased in the southeast quarter of section 4.

So great was the number of wild geese and cranes near the lakes of this

and adjoining townships at an early day that at times it was safely estimated that tens of thousands of these birds of passage, made their way from the south in springtime to the northern lakes and in the autumn time wended their way southward, stopping in fields of grain in the stack and in fields of ripening corn, both of which in many instances they totally destroyed. At early dawn it was an easy matter for the farmer to stand in his door yard and shoot several geese as they passed over the claim shanty. In the season of geese the farmers had all the game they could make use of, and that at little trouble or expense.

The sand-hill cranes were so thick that at times in their flight over a farm house, the noise they made with their wings reminded one of rolling thunders in the far distance. These birds were also eaten when geese could not be easily shot. The meat is good but has a stronger wild game taste than the goose or duck. Mr. Rasey relates of an incident where he prided himself on having the finest five acres of corn in the township. He was absent threshing in the neighborhood for almost a week, and upon his return, he found the cranes devouring his corn crop. He repeatedly tried to drive and frighten them away, but did not succeed and as a result his entire choice field was devoured, save a part of a wagon-box full of nubbins and half-eaten corn. He would frighten them in one part of the field and they would alight at a distant spot and commence eating again. In some instances they showed fight and would not yield to him.

Geese, cranes and ducks were in immense flocks in this part of the country for many years after the first settlers came in. One seldom sees any of these birds or prairie chickens. The burning of the prairies and plowing of the land resulted in their extinction.

THE VILLAGE OF ODIN.

This village was platted by the Western Town Lot Company, March 29, 1899, in section 25, township 105, range 33 west. It now has a population of about one hundred and fifty, and was incorporated in 1902. The records fail to show the first officers, so only the present ones are given. They are as follow: President, C. L. Olson; trustees, John H. Berdell, Lars Larson, P. M. Olson; recorder, G. Krogen; treasurer, P. T. Laingen.

In 1909 a town hall was erected at a cost of three thousand dollars. This hall is used not only for town meetings, but lodge purposes and all public gatherings. In the way of fire protection the town has a public cis-

tern, a hand pump and two hundred feet of fire hose. The present indebtedness is approximately one thousand dollars.

POSTOFFICE AND BUSINESS HISTORY TODAY.

The postoffice history of Odin is rather brief. The office was started about 1900, since which time the following postmasters have served: William Oleson, J. O. Querna, O. A. Call and O. A. Kabrick. The receipts of the office for the last fiscal year were approximately four hundred dollars.

The business interests of the village in 1916 were in the hands of the following:

- Auto Garage—P. M. Olson.
- Bank—Odin State Bank.
- Barber—Otto Rohn.
- Blacksmith—Edward H. Bott.
- Creamery—Odin Co-operative Creamery Association.
- Druggist—Dr. O. A. Kabrick.
- Elevator—Bingham Brothers, Great Western Grain Company.
- General Dealers—P. C. Hanson, Peak & Company.
- Harness and Furniture—O. A. Call.
- Hardware—Edward W. Thompson.
- Jeweler—O. A. Kabrick.
- Lumber—J. H. Queal and Company, John H. Bardell, manager.
- Livery—N. S. Nixon.
- Meat Market—Nixon & Son.
- Opera House—Odin Opera House.
- Restaurant—Ole Hanson.
- Real Estate—Odin Real Estate Company.
- Stock Buyers—S. H. Nixon, Farmers' Stock Buyers' Association.
- Telephone—Odin Farmers' Telephone Company.
- Woodmaker—Lars Larson.

Every town or village has some distinctive feature, and Odin is no exception. The village is beautifully laid out and everyone seems to take pride in keeping the streets and business houses spotlessly clean. It is doubtful if any village in the county of its size can proudly boast of as many up-to-date and modern homes. The Odin Farmers' Creamery Association has just moved into their new brick building, constructed at a cost of about three thousand five hundred dollars. This is one of the most

thriving institutions of its kind in the county, having over one hundred patrons and a capacity of over fifteen thousand pounds of butter per month.

RIVERDALE TOWNSHIP.

Riverdale township is on the north line of Watonwan county and the second sub-division from the eastern line of the county. It is south of Brown county, west of Madelia township, north of Rosendale township and to the east of Nelson township. It comprises all of congressional township No. 107, range 31 west, hence is six miles square and contains thirty-two full sections and four over-size sections—these being to the west. The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad line runs from northeast to southwest diagonally through the township, entering the township and county in section 3, and leaving the township from section 31. It has for a station in this township the little hamlet of LaSalle, situated in sections 16 and 17. The main line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railway runs through the southeastern corner of Riverdale township, entering it in section 36 and leaving it from section 35, en route between St. Paul and Sioux City and Omaha.

The population of Riverdale township in 1890 was 509; in 1900 it was placed at 716, and in 1910, it is given by the United States census books as being 727.

ORGANIZATION.

Originally, this civil township belonged to a much larger territory than it now embraces. It included what is now Riverdale, Nelson and Adrian townships. In November, 1869, the county commissioners made it into a civil township on the petition of George A. Bradford and others. This, like all of the townships in Watonwan county, is purely a prairie country, and is now well settled and has many handsome farms with artificial groves scattered here and there over its surface.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN RIVERDALE TOWNSHIP.

Under the congressional act approved on May 20, 1862, the following homesteads were granted in this township:

Thomas George, No. 2,347, New Ulm land office, the south half of the northwest quarter of section 26, township 107, range 31 west, issued by U. S. Grant, President of the United States, signed on September 15, 1874.

Jens Johannesen, certificate No. 3,083, at the New Ulm land office, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 4, township 107, range 31, issued by President U. S. Grant, February 12, 1877.

Nils B. Johansen, certificate No. 2,831, at the New Ulm land office, the west half of the northwest quarter of section 2, township 107, range 31 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on March 1, 1876.

John Doolittle, Tracy land office, the northwest quarter of section 20, township 107, range 31, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on December 10, 1883.

Military warrant No. 10,835, issued to Private Willis Baker, in Captain Clark's company of New York militiamen in the War of 1812. This land is situated in the southeast quarter of section 23, township 107, range 31, is signed by President Abraham Lincoln, and was laid in the St. Peter land office. This is in Riverdale township.

THE VILLAGE OF LASALLE.

LaSalle was platted on October 12, 1899, by Harry L. and Anna L. Jenkins as a part of section 17, township 107, range 31. It is a station on the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad and had the following business interests in 1916:

Bank—State Bank.

Blacksmith—L. C. Carlson.

Creamery—LaSalle Co-operative Creamery Association.

Elevator—Eagle Roller Milling Company, Great Western Grain Company.

General Dealers—Alfred Sletta, Watonwan County Co-operative Association.

Hardware and Implements—LaSalle Hardware and Implement Company.

Hotel—The LaSalle, J. Benson, proprietor.

Lumber—S. Hage Lumber Company.

Although the village is not incorporated, yet there seems to be the same public spirit among its citizens that is found in most incorporated towns. No greater evidence of this fact is necessary than to mention the construction of the town hall, which was built entirely by donation, but under the auspices of the LaSalle Band. The hall is used for all public gatherings and has thus become the center of community life.

The postoffice at the village of LaSalle has had postmasters as follow: J. E. Sundt, Anon Halvorson and Alfred Slotta. The office transacted business during the last fiscal year to the sum of four hundred and thirty-eight dollars and fifty-four cents. This postoffice has been twice robbed—once on April 3, 1904, when there was a loss of postal funds of one hundred and thirty-six dollars, and in money order funds, forty dollars and three cents, and again on November 13, 1909, with a loss of thirty dollars and five cents postal stamps, etc., and one hundred and nineteen dollars and forty-seven cents, money order funds.

The bank at LaSalle was blown open Sunday, January 12, 1908; the loss was not heavy, however.

ROSENDALE TOWNSHIP.

Rosendale township, comprising congressional township 106, range 31 west, is one of the central subdivisions in Watonwan county, and is south of Riverdale, west of Fieldon, north of South Branch and east of St. James township. The western sections overrun, hence the township is a little over regular size. The City of St. James, the county seat, comes up to the western line of this township. The only hamlet within Rosendale is Grogan, a station on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railway line, in section 3. The township was named from a town in Wisconsin, by Mrs. S. W. Sargeant, that being her old home.

The railroad just named enters this township in section 18, and crosses parts of 8, 9, 4, 3 and leaves the township from section 2 over into Riverdale township. The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad touches the northwest corner of the township.

There are a number of pretty lakes and lakelets in the township, including these: One in section 3, section 5, sections 10 and 20 and in sections 28 and 29. There are a few small streams running to the north and east. Bullhead is the largest lake in this township.

The population of Rosendale township in 1890 was 369; in 1900 it was placed at 510, and in the last census it was placed at 571. It is within a rich agricultural district and land sells as high as one hundred and fifty dollars per acre.

ORGANIZATION.

In March, 1871, the county commissioners' board then consisting of Merrill, Addsmound and Bradford, made a new civil township out of con-

gressional township 106, range 31, west, and gave it the name of Springfield, but at their meeting in April of the same year, changed it to Rosendale, as it is known today.

THE FIRST SETTLERS.

Among the earliest to locate here was Michael Gall, a native of Austria, born in 1822, came to America and settled in this township in 1868; was township treasurer for eight years and died in 1906.

A STORY OF PIONEER DAYS.

The following is from the pen of George A. Bradford, who wrote in the *St. James Plaindealer* a few years since, after the following fashion:

The following account of the settlement of Rosendale township is translated from the archives of the Rosendale Norwegian Lutheran church, which were compiled by George Herbitz, secretary of the congregation. Mr. Herbitz is himself one of the oldest settlers of this township, and his information is undoubtedly accurate. Of course these notes refer entirely to the early Norwegian settlers and members of the Rosendale congregation, and comprise the period from 1856 to 1864, inclusive.

In 1854 Notto Jensen, then a boy of eighteen years, came from the parish of Evje Tordilen, in the bishopric of Christiansand, Norway, to America. He lived for a time in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and afterward worked for two winters in the lumber camp along the Wisconsin river. In the spring of 1856, he started for Minnesota, riding by stage coach to La Crosse. When they reached the highlands of Dividing Ridge, both he and the driver were forced to make the rest of the journey on foot, as the horses were not able to pull more than the empty wagon over the long grades. He made the journey from La Crosse to St. Paul on a Mississippi steamboat. There was not sufficient water in the Minnesota river for steamboat navigation, so he took passage in a freight boat, which was propelled up stream by means of long poles by which the crew of six men punted the craft, one steering. In this manner they reached Mankato. From there Mr. Jensen traveled in a southwesterly direction to look for land, which had timber, water and prairie, and finally settled on the south branch of the Watonwan river, in the region now known as Rosendale township, where he was the first white settler. His first dwelling was a sod house. Provisions had to be brought from Mankato. Wishing to get some butter, he went around among the neighbors to buy some. There was very little to be had, but he

succeeded in obtaining four and a half pounds, paying therefor forty cents a pound.

In 1856 there arrived in Rosendale township Palme Olsen and his wife; Running and his wife and three children, Helge, Cecil and Gari. Mr. Olsen took a homestead on the north branch. This family emigrated* in 1852 from Vikar Annex in Odalen, Norway, and settled in Rock county, Wisconsin, coming from there to Minnesota. Upon a trip to Mankato for the purpose of making various purchases Mr. Jensen fell in with a party of homeseekers from Pierce county, Wisconsin. They were intent upon getting homesteads along the South Branch river. The party consisted of Knud Larson Overing, his wife, Inger, and grown up daughter, Maren; Ole Jorgenson and wife Maren, and four children, Knud, Joegen, Maria and Lise; Halvor Knudson Barland and wife, Tarau, and five children, Maria, Gunhild, Knud, Jorgen and Asper; Eli Aadne and wife and their son and Nils Torson Overig, and Ole Jostesen. All of these took lands along South Branch, with the exception of Ole Jostesen, who returned to Wisconsin, and enlisted in the army. Upon his return to this county he bought land.

In 1857 Hans Johnson Berdal, with his wife, Synneve, and five children, Sivert, Ole, A., Jorgen and Ingeborg, arrived here. Mr. Berdal built a sod house on some land which he intended to file on but the government had already granted the right thereto to Bedo and Tip Nelson as payment for carrying the mails, so he took a claim further to the southwest, in the settlement later known as Long Lake.

VILLAGE OF GROGAN.

Grogan was platted by B. R. Grogan and Moses K. Armstrong, in section 3, township 106, range 31 west, September 6, 1891. It is five miles east of St. James on the line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad, in the center of a flourishing farming section. A number of years ago it had stores, elevators, lumber yards, creamery, hotel and many pleasant homes.

SOUTH BRANCH TOWNSHIP.

South Branch township was formed out of congressional township 105, range 31 west. It is bounded on the north by Rosendale township, on the

east by Antrim township, on the south by Martin county and on the west by Long Lake township. It contains thirty-four full and four overrun sections of prairie land. It has no towns or villages, nor any railroad through its borders. There are a few small lakes, the larger of which is the one situated in section 20. The South Branch of the Watonwan river courses through this township flowing toward the northeast. The land here is the equal of other Watonwan townships, rich, black soil of the most productive quality.

The population of the township at the last three census periods of the United States have been as follows: In 1890 it was 380; in 1900 it was only 552 and in 1910 it was placed at 617.

ORGANIZATION.

South Branch was formed by the board of county commissioners at their meeting in March, 1869, when the members of the county board were Messrs. Nickerson, Haycroft and Addsmund. It was to constitute congressional township 105, range 31 west. It was named Drewsville, but soon changed to South Branch.

PIONEER SETTLERS.

It is uncertain who the first actual settlers in this township were. It is known that Charles H. Locke was among the pioneers here.

Under the Homestead act approved on May 20, 1862, the following homesteads were taken up in this township and proved up on in the required time—five years:

Robert Sexaner, certificate No. 8,192, at the Worthington land office, the northeast quarter of section 2, township 105, range 31 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, and signed on November 3, 1876.

David Clark, certificate No. 8,414, at the Worthington land office, the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34, township 105, range 31 west, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

Edwin Fuller, certificate No. 2,511, at the Jackson land office, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 4, township 105, range 31 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on April 10, 1873.

ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP.

St. James township comprises all of congressional township 106, range 32 west. It is bounded on the north by Nelson township, on the east by Rosendale, on the south by Long Lake and on the west by Butterfield township. Its only municipality, town or village is the county seat of Watonwan county—St. James. The railroads that cross the township are the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha and the Minneapolis & St. Louis, the one crossing the other at the city of St. James. The former bears to the southwest and the latter to the south of the city.

The lakes and ponds of this township are numerous, but of recent years many of these lakelets are being drained and utilized for agricultural purposes. The larger of these lakes is St. James Lake, to the southwest of the city of St. James. The others are mere ponds, where water stands in wet seasons of the year and are gradually lowering and being drained.

The population of the township according to the United States census returns of 1890 was 473; in 1900 it was 614 and in 1910, it was placed at 575.

For the most part this six-mile square tract of land is flat prairie, with a few prairie creeks to break the otherwise flat appearance. The soil is a rich, black loam of the real drift deposit type and very productive of all the grains and grasses common to this latitude.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

St. James township was organized by the board of county commissioners at their meeting in March, 1870, when congressional township 106, ranges 32 and 33, was set off as a separate civil township of the county. This so remained until the board session in January, 1872, when the commissioners through a well-signed petition, formed a new township known as Butterfield, out of the western half of St. James, of that portion within congressional township 106, range 33 west.

PIONEERS OF THE TOWNSHIP.

The first actual settler in this township was Hans Olson, in section 14, at the north side of the lake. He pre-empted a quarter section in October, 1868, and is still living in St. James, engaged in the farm implement business.



FARM RESIDENCE NEAR ST. JAMES.

Hans Olson was the first man to settle in the vicinity of St. James. He came to this county in the spring of 1860. About a month or two later John W. Somers, at present one of the county commissioners, settled in the same vicinity. Among the other early settlers were, George Spetzler, Joseph Parsh, Henry Baranson, Abraham Strommen, M. Strommen, John and Andrew Swanson. The latter two men settled in section four. At present all the above mentioned live in St. James. Most of them took homesteads or pre-emptions, or both. The land cost them on an average of two and one-half dollars per acre, but at these figures the land was very high priced, not in terms of money but in hard times. Every fall their crops were in danger of the deadly prairie fires, which continued annually until the land became broken up. Then the grasshoppers remained with them for nearly five years, hardly leaving enough grain each year to winter what little stock they had. It is rather interesting to know that the grasshoppers had an unusual liking for onions, but cared little for potatoes.

For two years the settlers did all their farming with oxen. In fact they used oxen for everything. A good pair of oxen cost from one hundred to one hundred and thirty dollars. The average one-year-old, when sold for beef, usually brought about eight dollars; a two-year-old, thirteen dollars; a three-year-old, eighteen dollars and a four-year-old, thirty dollars. On one occasion a farmer killed a four-hundred-pound sow and was glad to dispose of the meat at two and one-half cents a pound.

Most of the first settlers built a small shanty of about fourteen by sixteen, which was enlarged as they could afford it. But at first they had to economize in every way possible. The average family used not more than one hundred pounds of meat during a winter. Coffee was so scarce and so high priced that carrots were baked and ground and used as a substitute.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES.

H. D. Hall homesteaded at the New Ulm land office the northwest quarter of section 20, township 106, range 32 west, and it was signed by President U. S. Grant, April 1, 1872.

James Curry homesteaded by certificate No. 3,847, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 106, range 32. This was signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Andrew Curry homesteaded with certificate No. 3,846, at the New Ulm land office, the southwest quarter of section 8, township 106, range 32, which was signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Peter Zender, on certificate No. 3,981, homesteaded the west half of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 106, range 32 west. It was issued and signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Joseph Pasch, at the Tracy land office, was granted a homestead on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 32, township 106, range 32 west. October, 1883, signed by President Chester A. Arthur.

CHAPTER VII.

CITY OF ST. JAMES.

St. James, the county seat of Watonwan county, was at first named by old General Sibley, one of the directors of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company, after some Indian, but the name was so long and odd that the general could not tell the president of the railroad company what it was, and that officer became angry and said to the general: "If you can't pronounce the name of the town you were allowed to name, I have a name that can be remembered and pronounced and we will have it printed on the maps of this road at once as St. James."

The village of St. James, as seen by records at the court house, was laid out July 13, 1870, in section 13, township 106, and range 32. It was recorded in October, 1870.

It was then in the midst of wild prairie grass and weeds and had no signs of being a human habitation for white men, but the railroad had decided to make this point a division on the line between St. Paul and Sioux City, and from this fact the prairie wilderness soon took on a transformed aspect and buildings went up here and there. The railroad was constructed from Lake Crystal to St. James—twenty-two miles, in 1870. The plat that was executed in July of that year, had for its first lot purchaser, S. C. Clark, and on it he erected the first building of the place. The first traders of the new village on the prairie, and which borders on the lake, were as follow: In September, 1870; J. Dean and Company established their lumber yard and soon after E. Zeina arrived and at once set about erecting his business house. Dean and Company carried Yankee notions and groceries in an old board shanty used by the graders. Zeina might have been seen at that time behind a pile of boards dealing out "that which is good for the stomach sake" (possibly), to railroad men, at least they seemed in those days, forty-six years ago, to think it gave them "spiritual comfort," as they termed it. But St. James, after having many years of history blighted and cursed by strong drink, with the county in which it is situated, was finally in 1915 placed on the "dry" list of Minnesota's sprightly cities and prosperous agricultural sections.

The pioneer resident of St. James was, doubtless, J. R. McLean; at least he has always been accredited with having been the first "permanent" settler in the town.

The first passenger train entered the place on November 22, 1870, over the old St. Paul & Sioux City line, now the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railway. It was an excursion from St. Paul and had the "brass collar," or officials and their immediate friends along with them. They were all well fed at the St. James Hotel and welcomed to the embryo city by Senator W. D. Rice, who was responded to by General Sibley, who was a director of the road, and President Drake of the Company.

WINTER OF 1870-71.

St. James had business interests in the winter after it was platted, as follow: Thompson & Bishop, J. Peterson & Company, G. H. Texley, J. R. McLean and Company, and George Carr, general merchandise and dry goods; Herriek & Bacon, dry goods and drugs; Parker Brothers, drugs and hardware; Shannon & Skelton, groceries and provisions; Folsom & Martin, hardware; the St. James and the Union Hotel, and two saloons. In less than sixty days a sprightly new railroad county seat town sprang into existence on the wild prairies of Watonwan county, in southern Minnesota.

The railroad company was liberal in that it donated a lot to any religious denomination that would build a church thereon in St. James. In 1871 the Baptists built; the Methodists in 1872, and the Presbyterian church worshipped in the Baptist church in 1871 until they could do better. The Catholic people were then being served by the priest stationed at Mankato. The railroad company also gave the town the small but handsome park, which all so much appreciate today.

The place was chartered as a village in February, 1871.

The first physician in the town was Dr. E. Cottrell, an eclectic physician.

The first limb of the law here was J. J. Thornton.

The first brick school house was erected at a cost of fourteen hundred dollars; it was heated with three furnaces.

ST. JAMES IN 1885-6.

The following were the business factors in the city of St. James thirty years ago:

Aldritt, J. S.—Wagon and carriage maker; general blacksmith and repair shop.

BIRDS EYE VIEW LOOKING EAST
 FROM COURT HOUSE TOWER.



MAIN ST. VIEW LOOKING EAST.



OMAHA R.R. OFFICE & R.R. YARDS



BIRDS EYE VIEW LOOKING EAST
 FROM COURT HOUSE TOWER.



Bank of St. James—Hon. M. K. Armstrong, banker; transacted a general banking business and real estate.

Bacon, Dr. C. R.—Physician and surgeon; also dealer in drugs and medicines.

Bergman Brothers—Meat market and dealer in cattle.

Byrne, D. C.—Dealer in dry goods and groceries.

Byrne & Eklund—Dealers in lumber and doors.

Case, D. R.—Agent for F. H. Peavey & Company, dealers in grain.

Chapman, W. A.—Editor and proprietor of *St. James Journal*.

City Hotel—J. P. Schurtz, proprietor.

Clark, S. C.—Surveyor and civil engineer and attorney-at-law.

Gibbs, W. W.—Proprietor of St. James Hotel. Owner of Rosendale stock farm and breeder of Holstein cattle.

Hage, H. H.—Dealer in wines, liquors, cigars, etc.

Herrick, G. H.—Dealer in groceries and dry goods.

Higgins, H. H.—Sheriff of Watonwan county; collection agency.

Holen, Soren—Agent for James S. Anderson, dealer in lumber.

Hoscheid, Phillip—Shoe repair shop.

Johnston, George P.—Clerk of district court for Watonwan county.

Kirk, Dr. T.—Physician and surgeon.

Knudson, Hon. George—State senator and auditor of Watonwan county.

Larson, Jacob—Dealer in reapers, mowers, threshers, and all kinds of agricultural implements.

Magner & Herrick—Dealers in dry goods and groceries.

Meidenbauer, George—Manufacturer and dealer in harness, blankets, whips, etc.

Mellgren, A. S.—County treasurer.

Melville, Charles C.—Farmer, stock raiser and landowner.

Miller, John N.—Dealer in liquors and cigars.

Mullen, M. E.—Judge of probate court for Watonwan county and surveyor.

Olson, Hans—Dealer in flour, feed, coal and farm implements.

Palmer, J. W.—Photographic gallery.

Peterson, Alfred—Dealer in wines, liquors and cigars.

Reichlinger, F.—Dealer in wines, liquors and cigars.

Rempel, W. P. & Brothers—Grain dealers.

Robertson, Dr. J.—Veterinary surgeon.

Seager, J. W.—Attorney-at-law.

Shutz, John—Proprietor of Union House.

Schutz, J. P.—Proprietor City Hotel.

Stemper, J. P.—Proprietor meat market and dealer in cattle.

St. James Hotel—W. W. Gibbs, proprietor.

Swenson & Larson—Dealers in groceries and dry goods.

Thornton, J. J.—Attorney-at-law; real estate.

Brick Office—Fire proof vault; Fire and Home Insurance Company of New York.

Torson, Thomas—Register of deeds of Watonwan county.

Union House—John Schutz, proprietor.

Valtum, Thomas—Dealer in general hardware, farm machinery and dealer in real estate.

Voss, A. R.—Real estate agent and landowner.

The grain shipments in the months from September to January, 1890-91, were as follow: Flax, 105,000 bushels; wheat, 95,000 bushels; oats, 72,000; barley, 75,000; timothy seed, 2,600 bushels.

The big flouring-mill was completed in 1889 at a cost of \$15,000, the same being built by private capital, aided by a \$2,000 bonus given by a vote of the city people, who had that amount of cash on hand.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

The city of St. James at first was incorporated as a village in 1871, with officers as follow: Trustees, J. Bartlett, G. S. Thompson, and William Martin; clerk, J. W. Parker; treasurer, G. H. Texley; justice of peace, S. C. Clark; marshal, John Neeley. It was April 27, 1899, that it became a city incorporation. The next day an election was held for the purpose of choosing city officers. The following were chosen: W. P. Rempel, mayor; Fred G. Hyatt, recorder; aldermen, Charles Wenstrum, Charles Crouch, William Oetting and Andrew Olson. The present officers are as follow: A. K. Peck, mayor; Christ Larson, clerk; C. T. Crowley, O. Wenstrom, F. D. Meyer, Dr. Joe Rolf, aldermen; J. L. Lobben, city attorney. Besides the ones mentioned the following men have served as mayors: E. A. Gibbs, W. H. Rowe, P. N. Sterrie, and E. L. Lobben. An example of unbroken service to the city is that of the present city clerk, Christ Larson, who has served in the same capacity for fourteen years.

The city has spent a great amount of money for improvement but, nevertheless, the bonded indebtedness amounts to only thirty thousand dollars. They have invested ten thousand dollars in an electric light system, which includes a one hundred watt dynamo and a one hundred and twenty-five

horse-power engine; also a fire pump. The above system and the water works can all be operated by their own power in case of emergency, but under normal conditions the electric power is received from Mankato.

Two drilled wells each five hundred feet deep, furnish the city with an abundance of pure water. The water is pumped into a sand pipe one hundred and ten feet high and holding approximately seven thousand two hundred barrels.

The city hall is a brick structure and contains the office of the city clerk, the fire department, jail, and store rooms.

In the way of parks, the city owns three, all of which are being improved and beautified for the benefit of its citizens.

ST. JAMES FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Property saved to the extent of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; eighteen years of work, practically without pay. This is the record of the St. James volunteer fire department.

The department was organized in 1895, the year after the water system was put in. Hose Company No. 1 was organized on February 1, 1905, the meeting being held in the old Peck building on Fifth street. Charles T. Crowley was chosen captain, Bert Bertramsen, lieutenant, and W. T. Bordene, secretary. The company consisted of thirteen members.

Hose Company No. 2 was organized in the register of deeds office in the old court house, February 3, 1895. The officers were captain, J. J. Schutz; lieutenant, Andrew Odson, and secretary, Swen Swenson. There were thirteen members in all.

On February 23, following, the members of the hose companies met in the old court house and elected Charles Crouch, chief of the department.

In June, 1896, a hook and ladder outfit was purchased and on June 13, a hook and ladder company was organized, with F. B. Lynch, captain; Albert Kopp, lieutenant, and W. T. Bordene, secretary.

Some time in June, 1896, Chief Crouch handed in his resignation which was not accepted until February 6, 1897, when C. E. Fuller was unanimously chosen chief. In June, 1904, the department organized what is known as Division No. 4, consisting of the band of twenty-two pieces, the officers of which were C. T. Crowley, captain; Louis Meyer, lieutenant, and Fred Meyer, secretary. Members of the band who are twenty-one years or over, serve as firemen. The cost of the movement was four hundred and forty-four dollars and seventy-nine cents, of which two hundred ten dollars and ninety-

four cents was expended for uniforms and two hundred thirty-five dollars and ninety-five cents for music and instruction.

The officers of the department at the present time are as follow: C. T. Crowley, chief; J. J. Shutz, assistant chief; Nick Stemper, secretary; Otto Bergman, treasurer; Matt Klaras, William Manning, Otto Wenstrom, trustees. Hose Company No. 1: Charles Engelbrecht, captain; Sever Hanson, lieutenant; Herman Miller, secretary. Company No. 2: George Hartung, captain; Felix Richlinger; George Schmeller, secretary. Company No. 3: Al Kopp, captain, Swan Nelson, lieutenant; Herman Schweppe, secretary. Company No. 4: P. C. Larson, captain; Louie Meyer, lieutenant; Roy Steel, secretary; M. Clark, treasurer.

SOCIETIES.

The principal secret societies in St. James a decade and more ago were listed as follow: Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Modern Woodmen of America, Royal Neighbors, Catholic Order of Foresters, Modern Brotherhood of America, and the Scandinavian Benevolent Association.

COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The St. James Commercial Club was organized on February 8, 1909, with a membership of two hundred and eighteen. The present membership is one hundred and nineteen. The object of the club is the betterment of the city in general, along the lines of civic improvement, as well as a center for social gatherings. The first president was R. H. Burns, the position in 1916 being held by P. N. Sterrie. H. M. Hammond is treasurer and A. M. Card, secretary. During the existence of this club it has been a means of looking after the best interests of the city, its work being seen on several occasions. It is united effort in a town or city that makes a place a live and truly up-to-date place. The old and trite saying that "what is everybody's business is nobody's," is, indeed, true in the workings of any community, but where there is a head center and men and women of responsibility united in the work at hand, things move along as they should, and in the proportion that each unit or member of a commercial club contributes in work, just in that proportion does the municipality it represents prosper.

Upon the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the organization of this club a splendid program was planned and carried out. The members

BIRDS ETC VIEW OF ST. JAMES
LOOKING SOUTH-EAST



BIRDS ETC VIEW
LOOKING NORTH



6th St. looking North



MAIN STREET, LOOKING WEST



VIEWS OF ST. JAMES.

of the Butterfield and Madelia Commercial Clubs were invited to be present. The services of the Wermerskirchen Orchestra were secured, and many interesting speeches were made. It was made plain to those present that to two men must be given most of the credit for the successful starting of this club—R. H. Burns and N. A. Peck, the latter having secured one hundred and eighty-four out of the two hundred and eighteen charter members.

Among other things accomplished so far by the club may be mentioned these: The buying of the Park Hotel and converting it into a sanitarium; the getting of the St. James roller mills opened; putting on a county exhibit at the state fair; co-operating with the Southern Minnesota League for the boosting of this part of the state; entertaining a Second District Editorial Association; raising money to aid in graveling some of the state roads in this county; entertaining the farmers to dinners; helping the Watonwan county fair, and general boosting for St. James. It was this commercial club that really saved the County Fair Association at a critical period in its history, in 1911.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The St. James public library was organized and started on August 29, 1911. To give credit to whom credit is due, one must be guided by facts that led to a library being started. To no other one can this honor be accorded than Miss Beatrice Shordiche, and although she was not connected with the early organization, it was her constant agitation and solicitation that finally led to a public library. It is located on the second floor of the Glass block, with Miss Susie Fickes in charge as librarian. The institution is supported wholly by subscription, but arrangements have been made whereby it shall be supported by taxation. At present the library has one thousand seven hundred and fourteen volumes and is supplied with nine weekly and three daily papers, four magazines and numerous other papers and magazines that are personally contributed.

The present library board is as follow: President, A. R. Voss; vice-president, Mr. Manworing; secretary, Mrs. George Seager; treasurer, L. Chapman; Mrs. Will Curtis, Mrs. George Shorp and Mr. W. W. Brown.

BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

The Business Men's Association was organized on October 12, 1915, with the following officers: W. G. Manning, president; J. C. Ranseen, vice-president; George W. Seager, secretary; Severt Hanson, treasurer; David

R. Schroeder, Charles H. Englebrecht and Dr. Albert Thompson, directors. The purpose of the organization is to co-operate with the Commercial Club for civic and industrial betterment, ratings, better roads, mutual protection and matters of publicity.

SANITARIUM.

The St. James hospital and sanitarium was organized in 1909 by a corporation of St. James business and professional men. The building known as the Park Hotel, built by M. K. Armstrong in 1898, was secured at a cost of forty thousand dollars. Dr. W. H. Rowe is in charge of the institution and under his direction special attention is given to nervous and mental diseases. The sanitarium has gained quite a reputation and is known as one of the best in the northwest. It is estimated that two hundred and fifty patients are treated annually, coming mostly from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Fourteen nurses are employed.

LONG LAKE PARK.

Some St. James business men of keen insight and broad vision, saw some possibilities in the formation of a lake resort and park at Long Lake. Others became interested until six well-known business men, including Thomas Tonnesson, P. N. Sterrie, William F. Schoffman, C. T. Crowley, E. C. Veltum, Crouch Brothers and William Manning formed a company for the purchase and improvement of the lake and surrounding land including twelve acres.

No pains or expense have been spared by these men in making this an up-to-date park. Practically three thousand dollars have been spent in the improvement of the lake, the erection of a bath house and refreshment stands and also a dance pavilion, forty by seventy feet, which is an ideal dancing place.

The lake is an ideal place for a summer resort and, doubtless, in a few years numerous cottages will dot its borders. The lake is two miles long and four and one-half miles wide, containing fish of all sizes and descriptions. This lake is only seven miles from St. James and close to several neighboring towns, with fine roads leading thereto, thus making a pleasant drive for people in search of recreation and rest.

ST. JAMES STEAM LAUNDRY.

If cleanliness is next to godliness, then the St. James steam laundry exemplifies this verity. This laundry turns out the best class of work; their rough dry and polished work is of the highest quality.

Mr. P. C. Larson, who established the St. James quality laundry in 1901 did so with the idea of conducting it permanently. He installed the latest and costliest machinery to be obtained.

CIGAR FACTORIES.

The Wermerskirchen cigar factory was established in 1904 by the three brothers, Edward, Frank and Philip Wermerskirchen, who are the present owners. This worthy enterprise hardly knows the meaning of the common expression "hard times," because the nature and quality of their cigars are such that they are always in demand. The business has increased from year to year until at the present time the output has reached the three hundred thousand mark. The cigars are sold far and wide, but the most extensive trade is in St. James and towns within a radius of one hundred miles. The firm employs from seven to ten men the year around. Some of the special brands that they manufacture are the "La Palma," "Safety First," "Golden Dream," "Frisky Widow," "Advertised" and "Real Thing."

CROWLEY CIGARS.

The Crowley cigar factory was established in 1899 by C. T. Crowley and L. Halverson, but since Mr. Crowley has become sole owner. He has in his employ six men and two boys, who make yearly three hundred thousand cigars, all of which find ready sale in near-by districts.

During the summer of 1916 there appeared in the windows of the various business houses placards bearing such signs as "Spend your money at home," "patronize home merchants," etc. If all cigar smokers in St. James would carry out the above principles, Mr. Crowley would have need of more cigar makers in St. James, and the home merchants and people generally would be perceptibly benefited.

Mr. Crowley manufactures many of the best cigars on the market. Nothing but the best grades of tobacco and full long fillers enter into the composition of the cigars he places upon the market. They are made under light and clean conditions, facts that should act as a recommendation in all

communities. Mr. Crowley makes a specialty of "Our Governor," "Invincible" and "La Imperial," ten-cent cigars, and the "Governor Five," "Havana Conqueror," and "Little Havana" five-cent cigars, all of which enjoy a vast sale throughout southern Minnesota and neighboring states.

ST. JAMES TILE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

This the largest and most important manufacturing industry of its kind in St. James. The company is provided with the very latest machinery for the manufacture of all kinds of tile and cement products.

This company does a large contracting business, building re-inforced concrete bridges, cement brick buildings, and in fact anything that cement is capable of being used for. There is nothing that smacks of makeshift in the construction of this plant, which represents a large outlay of money. The standing in this community of the St. James Tile Manufacturing Company is such as to indicate that business ability of a high order directs its movements.

In the works they employ a large number of men and their fair treatment of their employees is worthy of note. They pay good wages and they guard against accidents by installing safety devices. The president of this company is Joseph Schmidt.

BOTTLING WORKS.

The St. James bottling works was organized about 1887 by Joseph J. Sperl; the present owner is E. H. Klaras. Three to five men are employed. Soda water of all flavors is manufactured and sold in southwestern Minnesota. A jobbing trade is also carried on in soda water fountain supplies.

ST. JAMES MILLING COMPANY.

The St. James Milling Company was organized in January, 1910, in the form of a corporation. They have been running at their full capacity from the very beginning, which speaks well for the management and the company's products. They have in connection a grain elevator holding twenty thousand bushels. Their daily capacity is two hundred and fifty barrels of flour and seventy five barrels of specialty products. Their special brand of flour is the "St. James' Best," which receives a ready sale through southern Minnesota and Iowa.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND OPERA HOUSE, ST. JAMES.



MILLER-GLASS BLOCK, ST. JAMES.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS—1916.

The business interests and professions of St. James in 1916 were in the hands of the following:

Auto garage—Appel & Wettestad, Gottlieb Dettwiler, Pioneer Auto Company, Schoffman, Crowley & Vellum.

Attorneys—E. C. Farmer, Jens L. Lobben, Albert Running, Seager & Seager.

Banks—Citizens National, First National, Security State.

Barber shops—Lawrence & Crain, Louis W. Meyer, V. W. Riley.

Blacksmith shops—Nels Bjorklund, Herman Elting, H. A. Remper.

Bakery—City Bakery.

Clothing—Haugen & Warnke, J. P. Heirtz & Son.

Creamery—St. James Creamery Company.

Confectionery—G. W. Giles, Olympia Candy Kitchen.

Druggists—Hintgen Drug Company, John W. Shanks.

Dray line—Klaras & Mausling.

Dentists—Fred W. Hinds, Johan Rolf, A. C. Thulien.

Elevator—Great Western Grain Company, Farmers Grain Company.

Furniture dealers—A. K. Peck & Son, St. James Furniture Company.

Feed store—F. M. Priest.

Florist—J. J. Hill.

Grocers—Clinton Ellsworth, Amel Running.

General dealers—Schoffman Brothers, John K. Sonnesyn & Company.

P. N. Sterrie & Company, Swendsen & Ranseen.

Hotel—The Boston.

Harness shops—John L. Beck, George J. Hartung, John D. Meyer.

Hardware dealers—Charles H. Engelbrecht, Rollic C. Gibson, City

Mercantile Company, J. T. Beatrundi.

Implements—Charles H. Duryea, City Mercantile Company, Hans Olson.

Ice dealer—Manning Fuel Company.

Jewelers—Severt Hansen, Emil F. Minder.

Laundry—St. James Steam Laundry.

Lumber dealers—S. Hage Lumber Company, Thomas-Halverson Lumber Company.

Livery—Forsyth Livery.

Mill—St. James Milling Company.

Millinery—Cook & Rodgers, Agnes B. Cooney, Charlotte Schaefer

Meat Market—Otto Bergman, David Schroeder & Son.

Moving Picture Show—Star, Princess.

Merchant Tailors—Chris. G. Kittelson, Paul Rudie.

Newspapers—*Plaindealer*, *Journal-Gazette*, *St. James Independent*.

Nations—G. A. Beck, P. A. Beeker.

Nursery—John Hill.

Opera House—Grand Opera House.

Physicians—Benjamin H. Haynes, William H. Rowe, Albert Thompson.

Photographic Gallery—Steel Studio.

Produce dealer—Fred M. Priest, Peterson & O'Connell.

Restaurants—Diamond, Gish & Henkle, John Johnson, J. J. Williams.

Real Estate dealers—Sonnesyn Land Company, Curtis-Sawyer Land Company, Gibbs & Swepe, Home Seekers Land Company, Ed. C. Fuller.

Stock Buyer—St. James Shipping Association, J. D. Nolan.

Tile works—St. James Tile Company.

Telephone—St. James Telephone Company, Tri-State, North Western.

Veterinary—Charles C. Anderson, William C. Cullen.

Wagonmaker—Erickson & Johnson.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

In July, 1908, there was a three days home-coming gathering at St. James. The president on that occasion was J. J. Thornton, Sr.; the secretary, E. Z. Rasey and the treasurer, Mrs. J. J. Thornton. An Old Settler's Association was formed at that time for Watonwan county. The first day of the celebration was interesting; a speech was delivered by Hon. W. S. Hammond; a baseball game was played; the Old Settlers Association perfected, etc. On the second day the real home-coming occasion took place and many old friends of early times renewed their acquaintance and reviewed the long-ago years. The third day was devoted to games, horse races and wound up by a display of fire-works in the evening.

The Omaha coal sheds at St. James were burned at a loss of fifteen thousand dollars, May, 1912.

The St. James water-works contract was let to E. F. Sykes, of Minneapolis at \$21,116 and was to be completed by November 5, 1894.

In 1894 there was a contract let for the construction of three thousand two hundred and forty feet of sewer. This was awarded to Abbott & Youngren, Minneapolis, at eighteen hundred and fifteen dollars and sixty cents. It called for a twelve-inch vitrified pipe.

The vote to bond the city for water and lights in May, 1894, stood, 240 for, as against 105 opposing the measure.

In the summer of 1880 a contract was let to build the city flouring-mill, at a cost of ten thousand dollars.

In 1907 the city hall bonds were sold to a Minneapolis firm for the sum of \$6,525. This was for the erection of the present city building.

Quite an innovation in the printing business occurred in St. James in the autumn of 1915, when H. L. Troop, established a "printery" in which by linotype machines he is doing the typesetting of the news departments for all three of the newspapers of the city, as well as setting advertising matter when the offices require it of him, in busy seasons.

THE ST. JAMES GRAIN COMPANY.

In 1890, what was styled the Farmers Elevator Company was organized by E. Z. Rasey, John Erickson, Patrick Grogan and Frank Goodwin. It was re-organized in 1911 and named the St. James Grain Company. This organization soon revolutionized the grain trade of the county. Notwithstanding that there are other large grain warehouses and dealers in St. James, still this company made up of farmers co-operating on a mutual plan, have taken the lead and every day the smaller towns in the county get their market figures from this company. They usually declare a ten per cent dividend, annually. This is one instance wherein the farmers have shown their ability as able business men in the handling of large amounts of grain and money.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE CHURCHES OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

The religious element has always predominated in the various townships of Watonwan county, from the earliest date of settlement. The Americans who first braved the dangers coincident with effecting a permanent settlement in this part of the state, were from one or more of the older settled portions of the Union, and did not leave their church letters back beyond the Mississippi or Alleghany mountains, but as soon as conditions would permit, after building themselves rude houses and raising a few crops, commenced to organize classes and religious societies of different kinds, according to their own religious views.

The first denomination to lift up the Cross in this county was the Methodist Episcopal, a class being formed at Madelia in 1857. As other sects arrived they worshipped in union congregations, until enough had settled to support churches of their own when such societies were formed. There are now in this county churches of the following denominations: Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Mennonite, Swedish, Norwegian, German and Danish Lutherans, Christian or Church of Christ, with possibly some others.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

The Methodist denomination is only represented at this time by two churches, one at St. James and the other at the village of Madelia. The First Methodist Episcopal church at St. James was organized in 1871, by Rev. J. R. Andrews, with a charter membership as follows: Hamilton Foster and wife, Mary Keing, Mrs. J. W. Seager, Frank Smith and wife, S. W. Thayer and family, A. S. Trowbridge and wife, J. B. Bemies, C. J. Smith and wife, E. Z. Rasey and wife, E. P. Newell and wife, James Butler, Ira W. Bowen and wife, Amasa Smith and wife, Mary Lyons, Alice Holland, A. D. Lewis and wife, Lyman Matthews and wife and Clarence Rowland.

The present total membership of this church is one hundred and eighty. A church building was erected in 1871 at a cost of one thousand dollars. The present edifice was built in 1895 at a cost of fourteen thousand dol-



RURAL CHURCHES OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

lars. A parsonage was erected in 1883 and remodeled in 1900, and is now valued at twenty-five hundred dollars.

The first sermon preached in St. James by a minister of this faith was delivered by Rev. W. I. W. Cunningham. His widow still resides in St. James, and now lives with her daughter, Mrs. E. Rowland. The following have served as pastors here: Revs. J. R. Andrews, N. A. Trowbridge, M. D. Terwilliger, F. L. Tuttle, W. L. Demorest, J. W. Cornish, W. A. Miles, W. H. Barkaloo, John Gimson, W. P. Stockdill, H. E. Chase, Lincoln Jones, N. B. Foote, G. A. Cooke, L. A. Wilsey, William Burns, E. R. Houck, F. F. Fitch, C. H. Miller, A. C. Petrie and the present pastor, Rev. W. H. Irwin.

This church has all of the usual departments of church work, and is in a flourishing condition.

AT MADEIRA.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Madeira was organized in 1857 by Theophilus Drew, but the names of the charter members cannot now be learned. The present membership of this church is one hundred and eighty-five. The present church building was erected in 1896 at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars.

Among the pastors who have been assigned to this place are recalled the following: Revs. Theophilus Drew, John W. Powell, Stines, Milner, McCleary, S. T. Richardson, Churchbuck, B. Y. Coffin, A. G. Perkins, Joshua Barnard, J. W. Powell, W. I. W. Cunningham, J. R. Andrews, N. A. Trowbridge, M. D. Terwilliger, F. L. Tuttle, W. L. Demorist, J. W. Cornish, C. A. Rassy, W. A. Miles, W. H. Barkaloo, John Gimson, W. P. Stockdill, H. E. Chase, E. H. Goodell, A. D. Seckner, W. C. Sage, C. W. Morse, J. R. Hitchcock, John Lowe, I. N. Goodell and C. A. Anderson. The last named came before Rev. Seckner, and the present pastor is Rev. I. N. Goodell.

It appears that this work began in 1857 and meetings were held at private homes until 1862, and then after the Indian uprising troubles had ended, services were held in the old fort or block-house, which was on the site of St. Paul street, just to the north of the present church. After they left the fort they held meetings in the school house for about eight years. Next, they held services in the Presbyterian church which was built in 1871. Next, Flander's Hall was used by the Methodists. The first Methodist church here was erected in 1876 and cost two thousand dollars. It appears from the records that a parsonage was built in 1871, during the pastorate of Rev. J. R. Andrews.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's congregation held its first services on April 4, 1886. The services were conducted in German, by Rev. C. J. Albrecht. On October 6, 1886, the congregation was formally organized, the organization of which included the following: President, E. Vehling; secretary, F. W. Uhlhorn; treasurer, Christ Harms; H. Feigs, Otto Close, H. Keller, John Petrich, L. Englebrecht, A. Franghuesk, A. Mueller, A. W. Schweppe.

Until May 7, 1887, the congregation was furnished with student pastors from the Martin Luther College of New Ulm, but on the date indicated the Rev. R. Poethke was called as the first regular pastor. On June 4 the congregation decided to become a member of the Minnesota Association. On August 15, 1887, the congregation resolved to build a church and on September 9, the corner-stone was laid. On July 29, 1888, the edifice was dedicated by the Rev. C. H. Sprengler, assisted by Rev. R. Poethke. In size the building was twenty-four by forty-four feet and a tower of sixty feet high.

Rev. R. Poethke accepted the call of another congregation on November 1, 1888, and to fill the vacancy, Reverend Nietske was secured and he served until Palm Sunday, 1890. The church was without the services of a regular pastor until March 2, but during this time Rev. C. H. Sprengler conducted the services. On the date mentioned the Reverend Porisch, of Hurley, Wisconsin, was secured as the regular pastor.

In 1897 the congregation decided to build a school building and in 1898 Mr. H. Schmal was chosen teacher. He held this position until November, 1903, when he received a call to Manestine, Michigan. In September, 1904, Miss Ida Sperind was called as teacher.

In the spring of 1904 Rev. Porisch was called to Butterfield, Minnesota, and the congregation was without the services of an active pastor until October 2, 1904, when the Rev. A. Dasler, of Rapid River, Michigan, accepted the call. In the forepart of the year 1905 the congregation bought property for the residence of the pastor, and in the summer of the same year, a new two-story school building, thirty by forty-four feet, cement block construction, was erected to meet the growing needs of the church and school.

Rev. Dasler served as pastor until the spring of 1911, when he accepted a call to Scranton, Pennsylvania. He was succeeded by Rev. E. A. Pankow, who is the present pastor. The teacher in charge of the school is Mr. E. Gruber, who has served since the fall of 1906.

Services are conducted in both English and German, but with German predominating. The congregation has a Young People's Society and a Ladies' Aid Society that meets monthly in the school building.

AT BUTTERFIELD.

German Evangelical Lutheran, St. Matthew's congregation, in the village of Butterfield, was organized February 13, 1904, by Rev. A. F. Zrehlsdorf, with the following charter members: A. B. Schwrettest, H. Obevdick, C. Schellin, Louis Seavert, John Ott, George Wolff, Adam Wolff, John Wolff, R. Krause, John Oeltjenbruns, H. Oeltjenbruns, H. Reinitz, William Abel, W. Williams, H. Janssen, G. Blankenburg, William Kuecker and D. Goltz.

The congregation now numbers eighteen. The pastors who have served this congregation are Revs. A. F. Zrehlsdorf, J. Porisch and present pastor, Rev. W. C. Rumsch, who has been in charge since August, 1910.

The church building cost the society thirteen hundred and sixty-four dollars. There is a parochial school attached to this church and school is kept up seven months each year; it is held at the parsonage; ten to fifteen pupils attend. Instruction is given by the pastor.

AT MADELIA.

The Madelia Evangelical Lutheran, or East Lutheran, as sometimes called, is located at the village of Madelia and it was organized November 29, 1870, by Rev. N. Olson, of the Norwegian Lutheran conference. The first board of trustees were as follows: Jerome Patterson, Martin Gjertson and Torger Olson. Its first deacons were: Gunder Sasson, Ole Berntson and Anders Anderson.

The present membership is one hundred and twenty-eight. The first church building was erected in 1873, and the present one in 1901, at a cost of about four thousand dollars. The parsonage was built in 1894, valued at three thousand dollars. The following is a list of the various pastors who have charge of this work at Madelia: Revs. N. Olson, 1870-74; N. S. Hoggens, 1874-81; T. R. Solensten, 1882-87; S. Romsdahl, 1881-91; J. H. Brono, 1892-93; H. Houkom, 1893-97; John Mastson, 1898-04; H. C. Casperson, 1904-05; Johan Mattson, 1905-07; O. M. Bakke, 1907-08; C. M. Tellefson, 1909 and still pastor.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran church at Madelia was organized October

28, 1870, by Rev. T. H. Hattrem and the following charter members: William Wilness, Hans Iuvland, Tolley Pederson, Charles Tiegum, Syver Tjelsta, Rasmus Johnson, David Anderson, Helge Palme, Jens Thorson, Ole Wiborg, Nils Thorson.

In 1916 there were three hundred and eighty-one members of this church. They own a six-thousand-dollar house of worship and a parsonage valued at about fifty-five hundred dollars. This denomination has churches at LaSalle, Rosendale township, St. James and other points within Watonwan county. This church maintains parochial schools in four districts—Martin Nelson district, Homre district, Olaf Olson district and Madelia district. The total number of pupils enrolled is fifty-six.

AT DARFUR.

The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Johns church at Darfur was founded on August 5, 1907, by Aug. Goring and A. A. Uhlhorn. The charter members were as follow: Aug. Goring, Aug. Schaper, A. A. Uhlhorn, Earnest E. Uhlhorn, John Koenig, Henry King, William Koenig, Otto Langhoff, George Feller. The first trustees were the following: Aug. Goring, A. A. Uhlhorn, and Aug. Schaper. The pastors in order of serving are: Rev. Adolph Dasler, Rev. Edmund R. Bliefernicht, Rev. Arnold Eickman and Rev. E. A. Birkholz. The membership is about fifteen. The house of worship is a frame building, formerly a school house. However the building has been remodeled and very well serves the needs of the congregation.

The first teacher of the parochial school was Henry Geiger, but since that time the ministers have served in this capacity. The number of pupils averages about thirty.

AT SOUTH BRANCH.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church in South Branch township, was organized on June 13, 1887, by Rev. C. Ross, of Willow Creek, Minnesota. As far as now known the charter members were as follow: Paul Sieg, Frank Rathke, Henry Heckmann, trustees; C. Knoyck, Charles Zarn, Albert Spoleder, T. Lange, Gustav Boehm, H. Schroeder, W. Mibuhr, E. Stradtman, H. Jablonski, Carl Roosing, W. Niemeir, C. B. Engle, Fred Schultz.

The first church was erected in 1899, and remodeled in 1900. A parsonage was erected in 1895 and remodeled in 1906 and in 1914. The first parochial school building was erected in 1890. A school is maintained and

has been ever since the organization of the church; the pastors at first were the teachers. At first the church was used for school house purposes on week days, as well as for church services of the congregation on Sundays. A teacher's house was built in 1902. The first to teach here was C. F. Isbeener, of Portage, Wisconsin, called in 1901, and served until September, 1911. From February, 1912, F. W. Rochlitz has had charge of the school and is the present teacher.

The voting membership of this congregation is forty-seven, while the entire congregation is numbered at three hundred and seventy-five. The present school enrollment is fifty-five children. The pastors have been Rev. D. Koennemann, 1888-89; Rev. Hermann Nitsche, 1889-94; Rev. S. Sell, 1894 to the present date.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The First Presbyterian church of Madelia, was organized on May 23, 1869, by Christian Wisner and a charter membership as follows: Mrs. Morris Bradford, Mrs. Mary Rutherford, Mrs. John Travis, Mrs. Mary A. Travis, Mrs. Elizabeth Wimmerstrand, Mrs. E. Sprague, Mrs. Harriet Tibbles, Edgar Sprague, Miss Emily Sprague, George Yates, Mrs. Jennie Yates.

The total membership of the church in 1910 was one hundred and twenty-five. The first church building was dedicated on June 18, 1871. It was remodeled and enlarged during the pastorate of Rev. A. A. Palmer, at an expense of seven thousand dollars.

The pastors who have served this church since its organization are as follow: Revs. Christian Wisner, M. W. Adams, D. B. Jackson, J. W. Van Eman, James Cochran, C. A. Hampton, J. L. Gage, W. T. Hall, William Lattimore, E. B. Johnson, A. A. Palmer, W. S. Grimes, J. D. Gibb, present pastor. For almost a half century this church has been doing excellent work in the community about Madelia in holding aloft the banner of Protestant religion.

AT ST. JAMES.

At St. James about 1870, or possibly a year or two later, the Presbyterians organized a church society—the second denomination in town. For a time the congregation prospered and were served by some worthy and competent pastors. Although the congregation has no active pastor at the present time, yet services are held as often as possible in the church that was first erected. In the beginning the first services were held in a box car and

continued to be held there until the congregation could find more suitable and convenient quarters. Among the pastors that have served the congregation are the following: Reverend LaGrange, Slack, Pinney, White, Landman, Rankin, Preston, A. Marlow, Fisher. Among the first and oldest members are: M. G. Price, J. R. McLean, G. A. Boston and G. Morris. The present membership consists of about thirty families.

Another church of this denomination is located at the village of Butterfield, but no data was sent the editor of this work for insertion.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

At the village of Lewisville there is a church of this denomination. It was organized in the nearby country in 1877, by Archibald Law, with a charter membership as follows: Robert Dewar, Mrs. Robert Dewar, Robert Alexander, Mrs. Margaret Alexander, John D. Johnston, Mrs. Nott. There are now one hundred members, who worship in a church building which cost two thousand dollars. At first this building was erected in 1892, two miles from the village of Lewisville, but in 1900 the building was moved to the village. The society owns no parsonage.

The pastors here have included these: Revs. E. Rogers, E. C. Bennett, F. M. Stewart, R. W. Stevenson, W. O. King, David Hubsand, J. K. Shellenberger, Leslie Wolfe, C. Yewell, C. Ainsworth, George Brown, A. L. Martin, Bruce Black, Edmund Sarchette, Burton L. Hoffman and John McKee. The society is in a flourishing condition and doing a good work in the vicinity of Lewisville.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

The Church of Christ, at the village of Madelia, was organized in April, 1896, by J. K. Shellenberger, with forty charter members. The church building was erected in 1890, at a cost of four thousand dollars. The membership of this church in 1916 was one hundred and seven. The influence for good in the community in which this church exists is indeed great. The pastors who have served here are as follows: Revs. J. K. Shellenberger, J. Crook, J. C. Radford, John Harris, George Brown, F. A. Straingam, Burton Hoffman, and the present pastor is Rev. John McKee.

EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

Calvary Episcopal church, at St. James, was organized about 1887-8, and now has a membership of forty-six. The records were not to be had for a complete account of this congregation, owing to unavoidable causes. It is known that Revs. C. H. Beaulieu and W. H. Knowlton have served as rectors of this parish, and that about 1888 a frame church building was erected, and that the same was rebuilt about 1894.

AT MADELIA.

The Episcopal church at Madelia, known as Christ's church, was organized in either 1872 or 1873, by Rev. Dene Livermore. In 1883 a church edifice was erected and immediately occupied by the little congregation of faithful worshippers. The cost of the building was fifteen hundred dollars. This church has never grown to be one of a large membership, but an organization has been kept up. It now has nine communicant members. Among the pastors who have had charge of this work may be recalled the names and good works of the Reverends Livermore, Gunn, F. A. Johnson, T. C. Huedson, E. E. Lofstrom, W. H. Knowlton and Fillmore.

NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The church of this denomination located in Butterfield township, this county, was organized by Rev. J. P. Thorkveen, April 14, 1896, and now has a membership of twenty-five and a church building costing two thousand dollars. The older membership includes the following persons: G. S. Langland, J. P. Anderson, Claus Melheim, John H. Berdett, C. N. Sommesyn, A. Syverson, H. Bertison, Isaac Olson, O. A. Ulverstad. Later membership has included these: Hans Stalvorson, J. O. Ness, Jacob Brigger, Dr. O. E. Hagen, Dora Johnson, B. Nordby, Anton Stotte, John Olson, T. T. Tomner-son, L. A. Jacobson, J. Sigvaldeson and Emma Fossum.

Butterfield congregation of this denomination was organized July 1, 1896, by Rev. L. P. Thorkveen with forty members. The first officers were: Claus Melheim, J. P. Anderson and Gilbert Langland, trustees; Christ Sommesyn, treasurer; John Berdett, secretary; Amund Syverson, superintendent of the Sunday school; C. Melheim, sexton. This congregation now has a total membership of seventy-one. The church edifice was erected in 1898, at an expense of twenty-three hundred and fifty-one dollars.

The oldest of these churches in the county is Rosendale, organized July 2, 1859, by Reverend Fredericksen with forty members. The first trustees were Ole Jorgensen, Halvor Knudtson and Notto Jensen, the last one acting also as secretary of the church. The old Rosendale school house was used for meetings up to 1900, when a handsome church was erected, costing twenty-four hundred and fifty dollars. This church now has a membership of ninety.

Long Lake Norwegian Lutheran church was organized in 1869 by Rev. T. H. Dahl with forty-one members. The first officers were: Hans Johnsen Berdahl and Ole P. Ohmstad, trustees; Ole Jorgenson, sexton and parochial school teacher. The first meeting house was built in 1869 and the church building proper was erected in 1887, costing thirty-five hundred dollars. The congregation now has a total membership of two hundred and ninety-four.

Albion Norwegian Lutheran congregation was organized in 1871 by Rev. Thor Hatrem with one hundred and forty-eight members. The first trustees were Ole Lee, Torkel Sunde and Elef Grotta; the first sexton was Abraham Olsen Listul; secretary, Nils Kjelson; treasurer, Hans Blackstad; parochial school teacher, Erick Svane. The first church was built in 1885. It was struck by lightning and burned down in 1908 and was rebuilt the same year, costing twelve thousand eight hundred and eighty-five dollars. The membership of this congregation in 1916 was five hundred and sixty-two.

St. Olaf congregation was organized in 1891, combining two former congregations, Odin and Vaage. Odin congregation was organized in 1873 and Vaage in 1874. The original officers in the newly-organized congregation were as follow: Syver Olsen, Martin Egge, Syver Syversen, trustees; Ole Haatvedt, sexton; Peder Hunstad, Thor Thorsen and Ole Reinert, deacons; G. Krogen, secretary; Andrew Gilbertson, treasurer. A church edifice was built in 1881, and added to in 1891, costing twenty-seven hundred and twenty dollars. In 1891 this congregation numbered two hundred and forty-three, but it now has four hundred and seventy-eight.

The congregations of St. Olaf, Butterfield, Rosendale, Long Lake and Albion are all combined in one, having the same pastor and same parsonage. The parish has been served by the following pastors: Revs. Thor Hatrem, 1871-72; L. E. Green, 1873-4; A. O. Hagen, 1874-79; A. L. Lobben, 1879-85; N. Arvesen, 1886-87; and Rev. L. P. Thorkveen, 1888, to the present time

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS.

In the season of 1916 the teachers in these parochial schools were listed as follow: At Albion—Thora Tande, Pearl Flogstad, Mathilda Olsen, E. Frydenlund, E. Dahl. At Long Lake—Elenora Romsdal, Constance Romsdal. At St. Olaf—Emma Kolden, Martha Olsen, Della Madson. At Rosendale—Bertha Teigum. At Butterfield—John Sigaldsen. At Odin village—Rev. J. A. Nygard.

AT ST. JAMES.

The Norwegian Lutheran church at St. James was organized December 28, 1873, by Rev. L. Green, with these as charter members: Henry Berntsen, Hans Olsen and Iver Olsen. This church now has a membership of five hundred. The present church building was erected in 1900, at a cost of nineteen thousand dollars, and the modern parsonage was built in 1905, at an expense of forty-five hundred dollars.

The following is a list of pastors who have served this church since its organization: Revs. A. O. Hogen, N. Hegernoes, K. Solensten, S. Romsdal, J. Brown, Rev. Lawrence, J. Mathison, M. Sondohl, M. K. Hartmann, present pastor.

In connection with this church there is maintained during the summer months a parochial school for at least six weeks. Instruction is given in both Norwegian and English. The Sunday school has about one hundred and seventy-five in attendance and the lessons are largely taught in the English language.

SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran East-Sveadahl church was organized August 5, 1870, and located five miles and a half northwest of St. James. Rev. P. Carlson was chairman, and A. P. Lund, secretary. The following were the charter members: Martin Peterson, Sven Nelson, Anders Ericson, Svante Wallin, Gustaf Sjoquist, John O. Beck, Anders Ryberg, John Carlson, Anders Chalin, John Svenson, Anders Svenson, Svante Anderson, Nels Anderson, Ole Johnson, Pehr Anderson, Sven Nelson, Lars P. Lund, A. Bergman, Nels Hagstrom, Anders Skatt, Anders Ericson, C. G. Nelson, Johannes Sjoquist, Jonas Sjoquist, Gustaf Forsblad, August Beck, Svante Johanson, Nels Anderson, Casper Anderson, Anders Svenson, A. P. Wessberg, P. E. Malm, J. Bergstrand, A. Hawkinson, J. P. Anderson, together with their wives.

The congregation has been served by many of the old pioneer pastors, such as Rev. A. Jackson, J. O. Cavallin, Michael Sandell and others, but the first regular pastor was Rev. H. P. Quist, who served from 1876 to 1879. He was succeeded by Rev. P. J. Eckman, who served from 1880 to 1891. After him came Rev. L. J. Fihn, from 1891 to 1905. The present pastor is Rev. A. T. Lundholm, who has had charge since 1905.

The total membership in 1916 was four hundred and three. Four churches have been built since the organization of this congregation. The last and present one was erected in 1904, at a cost of eight thousand dollars. In 1910 the present parsonage was erected at a cost of five thousand five hundred dollars. The congregation owns forty acres of land upon which the buildings are erected. A parochial school is held every summer, with two teachers and about sixty scholars are enrolled.

AT KANSAS LAKE.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church at Kansas Lake, Long Lake township, this county, was organized in 1871. For a number of years it was a part of the East-Sveadahl pastorate, but later joined with Dunnell. At the present time it has combined with Triumph to form a pastorate. It has been served by Revs. P. J. Eckman, L. J. Fihn, J. W. Eckman and J. H. Ford, as pastors. The present membership is one hundred and seventy. The church property is valued at eight thousand dollars.

AT ST. JAMES.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church at St. James was organized April 30, 1884. Rev. P. J. Eckman was chairman, and J. P. Lundquist, secretary of the meeting. The following are the charter members: Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Lundquist, Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. John Sunberg, Mr. and Mrs. Anders Kulin, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Beck, Emil Sundberg and Anders Johan Peterson. The total membership is now four hundred and seventy-five. The first church building was erected in 1892. It was burned down in 1896, when the present building was erected at a cost of three thousand, two hundred forty dollars and six cents. The value of the church property is at present time ten thousand dollars. A parochial school is held each summer with one teacher and an enrollment of about sixty pupils.

The first pastor was Rev. P. J. Eckman, from 1884 to 1890. He was

succeeded by Rev. L. J. Fihn, who served from 1891 to 1905, when the present pastor, Rev. A. T. Lundholm, took charge.

AT DARFUR.

A church of this denomination was organized at the village of Darfur in 1914 by many of the membership of the present church, about sixty in all at that date, but now has grown to seventy-one. The pastor who has always had charge here is Rev. C. W. Samuelson. A frame building was erected in 1914, at a cost of seven thousand five hundred dollars. A parochial school is connected with this church; one instructor is now employed and there is an attendance of about twenty-five pupils. This school starts immediately after the closing of the public school and is held in the public school building. Heretofore it has always been customary for some one in the local community, or the pastor, to take charge of the school, but the church authorities saw fit to deviate from this custom and this year employed Miss Ruth Nelson, of Worthington, Minnesota. The enrollment for 1916 was about twenty.

MENNONITE CHURCHES.

The First Mennonite church, of Butterfield, situated on the northwestern corner of section 2, Butterfield township, was organized in 1882 by John F. Sawatzky and Jacob Harder, David Falk and one other. This church is a branch of the First Mennonite church at Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, and it is directed by their trustees, while the ministers are the same for both churches. The present membership of this branch is sixty.

The church building, a frame structure, was erected in 1882 and cost seven hundred dollars. In 1901 it was rebuilt and enlarged at an additional cost of two thousand dollars, in material alone.

The parochial school is a part of the church, and was erected in 1899, at a cost of seventeen hundred dollars for materials used in its construction, the work all being donated by the membership. One instructor only is employed and the pupils averaging about thirty, board in the school.

The pastors who have served faithfully and well in this church are Revs. Jacob Stoesz, D. D. Harder, John Niessen and I. J. Dick.

The Mennonite church in the village of Butterfield, known as the Salem church, was organized on July 17, 1876. The following is a list of charter members: Heinrich C. Janzen, Wilhelm Rempel, Bernhard Rempel, John Rempel, John F. Eams, Frank Schroeder, Cornelius Furl. The pastors who

have served the congregation are: Rev. H. H. Regier, Peter J. Friesen and Daniel Hubin. The membership contains about thirty families.

BAPTIST CHURCHES.

The First Baptist church of Madelia was organized at that village March 27, 1875, by Rev. B. F. Kelley. The list of charter members is not now believed to be in existence. The pastors who have served here are as follow: Rev. B. F. Kelley, March 27, 1875, to July, 1878; A. J. Davis, August, 1878, to September, 1881; B. F. Kelley, December, 1881, to April, 1890; C. E. McCalley, April, 1890, to April, 1891; B. F. Kelley, January, 1892, to September, 1894; C. E. McCalley, November, 1894, to August, 1896; D. D. Mitchell, November, 1896, to November, 1898; Rev. B. F. Kelley supplied this church during several vacancies; R. J. Straw, March, 1900, to March, 1902; J. M. Young, December 7, 1902, to October, 1905; G. L. White, June, 1906, to September, 1907; Alan P. Boynton, April, 1908, to March, 1909; A. A. Sparks, June, 1909, to April, 1910; O. B. Dally, November, 1910, to December, 1911; B. E. Rifenberg, September, 1912, to November, 1914; A. M. Whitney, March 14, 1915, to the present date.

This church has a total membership of sixty-five communicants, and worships in a building erected originally in the autumn of 1886; remodeled in October, 1903, at a cost of one thousand dollars, making the property now worth twenty-five hundred dollars, besides they own a neat parsonage purchased by the church in June, 1906, valued at twenty-five hundred dollars. This society was organized as a Free Baptist church and continued as such until 1912, when, in common with other Free Baptist churches, they became affiliated with the Minnesota Baptist state convention (regular Baptist), and final union became effective in October, 1915.

THE OLDEST DENOMINATION IN ST. JAMES.

The first church organization in the village of St. James was represented by the Baptists in 1871. The first service was held in a railway car, placed on the side track by the railroad company for that purpose, and was conducted by W. I. Cunningham, the father of Mrs. Ed. Rowland. He lived sixteen miles from the village and made the drive purposely for the occasion. The congregation used the car until they were able to secure better quarters. In 1886 they built their first and present building. The church has labored along with various degrees of prosperity and has been

served with some able pastors, among whom are the following: Reverends R. A. Clapp, Jones, Kelley, Smith, B. H. Brested, C. D. Blaker, L. E. Viets, C. E. LaReau and McFarland. For the last few years the congregation has been served by student pastors and at present there is no regular pastor in charge.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

The first Catholic church in the county, as written of in 1905, by the venerable priest, Rev. James Durward, retired, now residing in what he is pleased to call the "Hermitage," which is a block of ground in St. James, on which stands a small improvised dwelling, is as follows:

Madelia had the first church building in Watonwan county, and Father Pribel was the first pastor, attending St. James from Madelia. This continued for a short time. Father Pribel was succeeded by Father Elshorst, and the latter built a house at St. James and resided there, although still attending Madelia. The striking event in Father Elshorst's time was the transfer of the residence from Madelia to St. James. I don't say this was so very important; I simply call it striking. And I assure you it caused more than one strike. When Father Durward came to St. James, ten years later, Madelia went on a strike to reverse the residence, and so with all the other priests who came between Father Elshorst and Father Durward. Now there is nothing more to strike about. Madelia has a resident priest and a school to herself. But we have the court house and car shops, as well as two priests and a school to ourselves. At the time of which we are speaking, however, and long after, Madelia and St. James had but one priest between them. Even as late as Father Durward's first year, he attended Madelia from St. James.

Father Elshorst held services in the old church, on what is now Third avenue. It was a rickety old frame building, and it used to creak in the wind and swing back and forth. However, high mass was celebrated there, Miss Lizzie Manning acting as organist and leader. Indeed, Miss Manning continued to play in church up to the arrival of the sisters. She was a graduate of the Franciscan Convent School of Rochester, and for some years taught a private Catholic school in St. James. Father Elshorst raised two hundred and twenty-five dollars to build a priest's house, and he also plastered the church, which caused it to sing less in windy weather. These were hard years, not only for Catholics, but for everyone. From 1873 to 1876, or 1877, everything was devoured by grasshoppers. Farmers had to work on the railroad to get a sack of flour, and even then had to go to

Mankato to get it. They had only ox teams, so that the journey there and back took nearly a week. Those who were waiting at home were eating boiled pumpkins mixed with bran. This siege of the grasshoppers was a great set-back to the congregation. Many families moved away, and the resources of those who were still here were greatly impaired.

Father Elshorst gave his first services in St. James on the 6th of November, 1881, and preached his farewell sermon on July 27, 1894. During his stay in St. James he attended Madelia, Mountain Lake, Windom and Heron Lake. In the month of June, 1882, he bought the present church property from Nels Olson, a lumber merchant, and in the month of October built the parish house, now occupied by the Sisters. When he left, he left no debts.

The first church music was the "Luxemburger choral," without organ. The human voice is more pleasing to God than any instrumental music. God made the voice, man made the instrument. The first choir was composed of Leonard Hoscheid, Nicholas Miller and Peter Zender, all men. I think the Lord is better pleased with the singing of men in church than with screeching of women and girls. Most of those men have departed this life, and gone, we trust, to sing the praises of God in a better land. They were followed by a choir of ladies, still without an organ. Miss Anna Ditterd, later Mrs. P. Donahoo, of North Yakima, and Miss Susanna Roell sang in this choir.

On June 29, 1884, feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, Archbishop Ireland confirmed a large class. It was a very hot day, and the services were long. On July 5, 1882, Father Elshorst went to Germany to regain his strength, which was sadly exhausted by his hard missionary labors. At that time there were only eighty families in the parish—sixty-five German and twenty-five Irish. They showed great zeal in attendance at mass and frequentation of the sacraments.

FATHER YUNG.

Father Durward continues: The parish of St. James is now growing old. It has reached the year 1884. July 10, of that year, a newly ordained priest became its pastor—a priest who will always remain "Yung." At that time there were but thirty-five families in the parish. A church building was needed and Father Yung's first step was to call a meeting to discuss the advisability of erecting one. Only fourteen families were represented at the meeting and of these only six were in favor of building. The church was built nevertheless, and when completed there was but five hundred dollars

debt. The building was begun in October, 1885, and finished in July, 1886. The first mass was offered in it on the feast of St. James, July 15, 1886—another nail clinched on the providential name of the town. This is the same church that we are using today and the congregation has grown to one hundred and fifty families. The building is too small now and so Father Zachman will soon have to build a larger one.

Father Yung is a very genial man and a most exemplary priest. He has a very nice, quiet way with the people and always manages to get his hands into their pockets. But he did not stand with his hands in his pockets while the church was being built, but after saying mass in the old church he rolled up his sleeves and helped to handle brick. I have also been told that he once applied the Mosaic rule regarding the ass out of the pit on the Sabbath day. It seems that a carload of brick for the church had to be hauled from the depot on Sunday, or some additional expense would be incurred. So Father Yung told the people to hear mass in the forenoon and handle the bricks in the afternoon. Father Yung was too good and too able a man to remain long in so small a place as St. James was at that time. He was transferred to Northfield, Minnesota, leaving St. James on October 5, 1887, amidst the tears and lamentations of his people, whose hearts he evidently carried away with him. He has since been again transferred and promoted from Northfield to LeSueur and again to a still larger parish of St. Mathew at St. Paul. He loves to revisit St. James. It was his first love, so to speak, and though the church, his spouse, has grown to be the joyful mother of several children, these children and grandchildren are always pleased to see his kindly face on the streets of St. James and his more solemn and sanctified countenance at the altar, which he himself built.

THE DECEASED PASTORS.

St. Joseph is the patron of a happy death. Rev. Joseph Georgan, since dead, succeeded Father Yung as pastor of St. James, being the second of our priests who have passed to a better world. He came to St. James in the fall of 1887 and was transferred to Rose Creek about the first of October, 1890. Father Yung had completed the church and Father Georgan furnished and decorated it inside.

Father Georgan's three years passed very quietly. We Americans are all too apt to attach importance only to what makes a noise and to an external show. There may have been a gradual growth of faith in the parish during those seemingly inactive years. The ground was, perhaps, being

slowly prepared to receive the seed. Like his patron, St. Joseph, Father Georgan was doing the inside work. These slow works and slow workers require study. Age after age the genius of St. Joseph grows upon the generations of the earth and slowly but surely brings forth its large waxen blossoms and mammoth leaves like plants in the windless tropics. We will conclude, therefore, that during Georgan's pastorate the St. James parish was taking deep root, even if results were not very visible on the surface.

THE GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED.

At this point in our narrative a very important change takes place in the province. It is divided into three dioceses—that is Minnesota—St. Paul remaining the arch-diocese, and Right Rev. J. B. Cotter, D. D., is appointed bishop of Winona, his diocese comprising two tiers of counties reaching clear across the southern part of the state of Minnesota from east to west; Watonwan being one of these counties, therefore falls under his jurisdiction.

This was in the year 1889, and there was a young priest serving in Dakota, but had been ordained by Bishop Seidenbusch for the entire province *sub titulo missions*. This priest is Rev. James Durward, at whose request I am writing this history. He had been acquainted with Father Cotter before his ordination and no sooner than had Father Cotter become Bishop Cotter than he obtained permission from Bishop Martz, of happy memory, to retire from the diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and join the diocese of Winona. Thus, Father Durward, if not the oldest priest of Winona, is at least the first one accepted from another diocese. Father Durward remained in Winona for about eight months. He was then sent *pro tem.* for two months to Chatfield, Minnesota, as its pastor, Father O'Connell had gone to Europe. From Chatfield, Father Durward was transferred to St. James, arriving here on the evening of October 30, 1890. The first mass celebrated by him in St. James was sung on November 1, 1890, and taking possession of the parish he sowed the little grain of mustard seed which was to take root and grow to a large tree under the more able pastorate of Father Zachman.

Mustard seed, if covered too deep, sometimes does not sprout for years, but it never rots. It will come up some time, either to choke your crop, or to become a large tree—results depending upon whether it be the yellow mustard with which we are familiar, or that mustard seed of which the Lord speaks in the Gospel. American mustard is a vile weed, while that of

Europe, or at least of the Holy Land, does grow into a large tree. It is of this that our Lord speaks in the parable, as being the smallest of all seeds.

Father Durward came to St. James to stay. He rooted himself deep in the soil of Watonwan county. He even bought a small wedge of it, whose point touches the earth's center—the center of gravitation. A small piece of land gives a man a control of a very large piece of sky, for the wedge has the wide end up, and gets wider the farther up you go. It is this that gives rise to the rather inelegant expression, "there is always room at the top."

George Meidenbauer was the first man whom Father Durward met in St. James. He was a saddler or harness-maker. His old shop was at that time on rollers, in the middle of Main street, as it was being moved near the present church. It is now fitted up as a residence. Mr. Meidenbauer owned an entire block at that place. He was the representative of the entire congregation—trustee, sacristan, etc., and envelopes were even found among the church papers addressed to "Rev. Father Meidenbauer." He was a very kind-hearted man. He is long since dead, and Father Durward has fitted up his old harness shop as a winter chapel, after holding school in it for one year.

From October 30th, 1890, to May 1st, 1897, Father Durward was the only priest in St. James. The times were very dull. Only an occasional theft or funeral. The chalice was stolen from the church, Father Durward shooting the thief and recovering the sacred vessel. This happened on the feast of St. Anthony, the saint who restores lost or stolen articles. Saint Nicholas may have protected the thief from bodily injury. There were no funerals in the parish in 1890, but in 1891 there was one, and in 1892 there were two; in 1893, three; in 1894, four; in 1895, five; in 1896, there were six, and in the year 1897 there were just seven, neither more nor less, Father Durward preaching the funeral sermon over the last of these deaths, that of William Schwingler. On May 1, of the last year mentioned, Father Zachman took possession of the parish of St. James, and Father Durward retired, with the intention of becoming a Trappist. He built a little school in his own garden, where school was held for one year, with a Catholic lay teacher, Miss Bertha Eckholt, and the Franciscan Sisters were engaged to teach it the following year. The little building serves now as a summer chapel. Some of the pupils who started with Father Durward are now in the ninth grade of the large school opened by Father Zachman, shortly after his arrival here. This was placed under the charge of the Sisters from Rochester, Minnesota.

Father Durward did not remain with the Trappists, but returned and became the first hermit of Minnesota, and the people of St. James will have to lay him in his last resting place, sprinkle him with holy water and say a little prayer that the day of judgment may find the little grain of mustard seed grown into a large tree.

FIRST MASS AT ST. JAMES.

This first mass was offered by Rev. Father Wertz, O. S. B., who at that time lived in Mankato, where he started a parish and all the places west of Mankato were at that time attended occasionally from that city. All these places now have resident priests and most of them have schools. Priests from Mankato said mass for the scattered inhabitants when the prairies were thickly inhabited with wolves and buffalo; at Adrian, Heron Lake, Windom, St. James, Madelia and Lake Crystal.

In those early days it was impossible to get a priest. I know of an excellent Catholic at Windom who got married by a justice of the peace, and remarried by Father Richard, seven or eight months later. He claims he had an episcopal permission. Some things cannot be postponed, and young people think matrimony one of these things. This brings me to the pastorate of Father Richard, who was the second priest to attend St. James. Father Wertz had gone to his reward and has long ago heard the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of thy Lord."

Father Richard did not attend St. James very long, but he is well remembered by all of the older settlers, and he always enquired after these pioneers whenever we met.

[Editor's Note: From the above account of this church it will be observed that the following have served as priests at St. James: Rev. Father Wertz; Rev. Father Richard (both deceased prior to 1905); Rev. Father Elshorst, who was pastor in the old frame building; Rev. Father Yung, who built the present church; Rev. Father Joseph Georgan (now deceased), who remained three years; Rev. Father James Durward, now retired and occupying his "Hermitage" at St. James; Rev. Zachman, who served until the coming of the present pastor, Reverend Meyers, who took charge of this parish in 1908.]

At the "Hermitage" retired, Father Durward lives in seclusion, of late having no housekeeper, he does his own housework. He placed a miniature steeple on the front of the little old harness-shop residence referred to and in it erected a tiny bell which the venerable old gentleman—for indeed he is

one—rings at five o'clock every morning, and in the same house he has an improvised altar where he says mass. He also has a small residence, or really the old school building, he built on his grounds, and in this building he has a chapel and more elaborate altar in a neat chapel. He worships in both of these places, at his will. He is a lover of flowers and plants and usually has a fine display of these, as well as an excellent garden.

ST. JAMES'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

On May 1st, 1897, Father Zachman arrived at St. James. He was newly ordained, and had been stationed in New Richmond, Minnesota, but a few months, so that St. James might be called his first charge. The little school started by Father Durward had been called "School of the Assumption," because it was opened August 15. But the large parish school opened by Father Zachman is dedicated to St. James, another proof that the town was providentially named.

Father Zachman did not come to this parish for several months after he had been appointed, but services went on as usual. Finally, he did come, and his first important step was the building of a large parish school—the Parish Catholic School of St. James. As the parish house required repairing and furnishing, Father Zachman lived about a month with Father Durward before moving in. He proceeded at once to make improvements. Besides building a school house and a parsonage, he made a number of minor improvements, such as a furnace, a new organ, a baptismal font, a marble fountain for holy water, a church bell, etc. Later on he instructed a brass band, organized the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Christian Mothers and Young Ladies' Society. Holy Scripture says "*Ego plantavi, Appollo rigavit sed Deus incrementum dedit*": I plant, Apollo waters, but God gives the increase. The increase during Father Zachman's pastorate has been wonderful. He is a builder, a worker; a thorough, business-like perseverance is his chief characteristic. He is not a showy worker while he works, but his works show the workman when he gets through. Nor has he neglected the invisible world of purgatory, nor yet that invisible city of the dead, called the churchyard. Year after year he has had it cleaned up and decorated, and enclosed it with an iron fence.

The parish school has the ninth grade every year, teaches all kinds of vocal and instrumental music, and also shorthand and typewriting. Later on it will have the tenth grade, or high school.

In the fall of 1895 Father Zachman had the church richly decorated

inside, and a beautiful portrait of St. James painted above the altar. A still further proof that the town was providentially named.

On October 5, 1905, Rev. Bishop Cotter, of Winona, Minnesota, assisted by a Greek monsignor from Rome, Italy, confirmed a class of sixty-nine, most of whom were young persons who had been baptized by Father Durward during his first years in St. James.

On October 30, 1905, the fifteenth anniversary of Father Durward's arrival in St. James, Father Zachman erected side altars and spread a beautiful new carpet on the sanctuary.

The remainder of this article has been compiled by the publishers from data secured by the present priest, Father Meyers.

The church now has a membership of about five hundred and thirty-five. It is the only church of this denomination in Watonwan county aside from the one at Madelia. Of the buildings it may be said that the first church was erected about 1870—a small frame; the present church, a solid brick building, was built in 1885, costing about fifteen thousand dollars. The present frame school building was erected in 1898, costing seven hundred dollars; the present parsonage was built in 1902, costing forty-five hundred dollars.

MATER DOLOROSA PARISH, MADELIA.

The historical records of this church and parish at Madelia date back to 1855-6, when the country, now the village of Madelia, began to be settled. Among the earliest settlers were counted a number of Catholic people: Theodore Leech, Patrick Rutledge, J. Simon, and Mrs. M. Anderson, who is still living in the parish. These Catholic people were soon followed by others in the succeeding years and in 1862, the year of the Indian massacre, Father Sommerseisen gathered together the little band, about thirty in number, at the house of Francis Russel, in Ceresco. There the holy sacrifice of the mass was offered up to God for the first time in the territory now embraced by the parish of Mater Dolorosa.

In 1872 the first church was built in the town of Madelia, on the site now occupied by H. Joerg's home, and October 24, 1872, Father Wirth celebrated mass for the first time in the new church.

On January 7, 1873, a date never to be forgotten in Minnesota by its survivors, Father Wirth again celebrated mass in Madelia. The forenoon was clear and inviting and for miles around Catholics flocked to the church. In the afternoon a terrible blizzard overtook the country and lasted three days, making at least three hundred victims in Minnesota alone. Many of

the Catholic people who went to church that day, experienced bitter struggles for life in attempting to regain their homes, Mr. Decker and Mrs. Cash perishing in the attempt.

After Father Wirth, the Jesuit Fathers, of Mankato, attended to the spiritual wants of the people of Madelia until the appointment of its first pastor, Father Prybel, who arrived in 1880. He was also entrusted to the mission at St. James. During the term of his successor, Father Elshorst, the residence was transferred to St. James and he attended the needs of the Catholics at Madelia from that place and so also did his successors, who were Father Yung, Father Georgan and Father Durward.

In 1801 Mater Dolorosa parish was raised to the rank of an independent parish, with Father Smith as its first pastor. He remained at Madelia but a short time and was succeeded by Father O'Connell, who assumed charge on March 26, 1892. By this time the congregation had outgrown the little church and Father O'Connell urged the people to build a new and more worthy place of worship. On Christmas day, 1892, a beautiful and spacious building was ready to receive the people for divine worship. Its cost was six thousand dollars. Sad to record, even at this late date, that beautiful church was completely destroyed by fire on January 1, 1893. The church was rebuilt on its same foundation and was dedicated by Rt. Rev. Bishop Cotter, October 10, 1893.

SCHOOL ERECTED.

In 1899 Father O'Connell was transferred to Caledonia and was succeeded by Father Holper, who also attended to the mission of Lake Crystal, until it was attached to the parish of St. Clair. During his stay, 1898-1904, ground was bought and a beautiful parochial school, the pride and saving feature of the parish, was built. The school was placed in charge of the Ursuline Sisters of Philadelphia, who came in 1899 and were succeeded by the present school Sisters of the Notre Dame, Milwaukee, in 1900. At present there are three Sisters teaching and the average attendance is one hundred children per year. The building cost nine thousand dollars and is a **strong veneered brick building.**

The building and its upkeep upon the congregation, rather small and poor for the burden, and the sole and worthy aim of his predecessor, as already stated, being of paying off the debts, Father Van Hoenaekere found the material properties of the parish in a lamentable condition. Without speaking of the rectory, which was devoid of all furniture and which itself

was an unworthy shack unfit for anyone to live in, the church and school were in the greatest need of attention and repairs. But like a hero the good Father went about reconstructing things, and many valuable improvements were made. Two lots were also added to the school grounds, which were secured from Walter Dahm for the school as a gift from the owner.

In April, 1912, a residence was purchased one block east of the church. This was remodeled and is the present rectory. Today the parish is composed of some seventy families and twenty-five single people, a total number of about five hundred souls, almost equally divided between the Germans and Irish. Sad to relate (says Father Van Hoenackere, pastor today), "the 'ought to be's' and the 'fallen away' would easily reach the one hundred mark. Scarcely twenty per cent. of the mixed marriages have kept the faith or at least the practices thereof, a number of the children never even having been baptized in the Catholic church."

The total debt of the parish is about twenty-eight hundred dollars.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY.

The pride and glory of our republic during the last four score years, at least, has been its free public schools. The organizers of the great Northwest Territory inserted a clause in the articles of that part of its Constitution, demanding that certain lands be set apart for school purposes. Every part of what was originally the Northwest Territory, including Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, utilized these provisions in the formation of their separate governments, as one by one these states and territories were cut off from the original territory. It was provided that schools should be provided for all classes, without money or price—the lands being taxed for the maintenance of such free schools.

PRESENT SCHOOL SYSTEM OF THE STATE.

The following scheme shows the elements of the public school system in Minnesota:

District schools are divided into common, independent and special schools, graded and ungraded. Then we have the state rural schools, the state semi-graded schools, the consolidated rural schools, the state graded schools, the state high schools, normal schools and, finally, the university.

A common school district is controlled by a board of three members; independent and special districts have their own superintendents, and in the main are not subject to the county superintendents.

The state graded schools and state high schools are subject to a board of five members: The president of the State University, the superintendent of education and president of the normal school board are ex-officio members; a city superintendent or high school principal and a fifth member is appointed by the governor.

The normal schools are controlled by a board of nine members; five of these are resident directors; three are appointed for the state at large, and one, the superintendent of education, serves ex-officio.

The university is controlled by a board of twelve regents; the governor,

the president of the University and the superintendent of education are all ex-officio members, and nine are appointed by the governor.

The public schools are supported by a direct tax upon the property of the school district, by a county one-mill tax, by a state mill tax, and by the income from the permanent school fund, together with small fines that are credited to this fund.

In addition to these funds, the state of Minnesota distributes annually (provided they attain a prescribed standard of excellence), \$150, \$100 or \$75 to each rural school; \$300 to each semi-graded school of two or three departments; \$1,500 or \$750 to consolidated rural schools; also, \$750 to each graded school of four or more departments, and \$2,200 to each high school that admits all qualified students free of tuition.

LIBRARIES.

To encourage the establishment and maintenance of school libraries the Legislature has appropriated \$21,500 annually. The state will aid any school district towards the purchase of a library to the amount of twenty dollars on the first order for each school building, and ten dollars annually thereafter, provided the district raises a like amount and selects the books from the list prepared by the state library board, which is composed of the state superintendent of education and the high school board.

CERTIFICATES.

Teachers' certificates are issued by the superintendent of education upon examination or upon the indorsement of a university or college diploma, or a diploma from a state normal school.

Examinations for common school certificates are given at one or more places in the county in February and in August, under the direction of the county superintendent. All manuscript for teachers' certificates is examined and marked under the direction of the superintendent of education.

AIDED BY SCHOOL LANDS.

Whereas, by an act of Congress of the United States, approved on February 26, 1857, entitled "An act to enable the people of Minnesota Territory to form a constitution and state government and for the admission of such state into the Union," sections numbered 16 and 36 in every township

of the public lands of the state were granted to the said state of Minnesota for the use of schools.

From time to time these school lands were sold to actual settlers on long time at good rate of interest and the proceeds placed in the state treasury to be paid out for public school purposes, nothing only the interest being allowed to be used, hence the state has a perpetual school fund which will ever give its educational facilities an advantage over many other states, where only the sixteenth section was set apart for school purposes. In Watonwan county there are now more than three hundred farms, which were originally school lands.

SCHOOLS OF 1875.

In 1875 there were thirty-five organized school districts in Watonwan county, of which twenty-six were in session and located as follows: Long Lake, three; South Branch, three; Antrim, three; Fieldon, three; Odin, two; Rosendale, three; Madelia, two; Riverdale, two; St. James, three; Adrian, one. The number of scholars enrolled in the summer schools were six hundred and seventy-six.

FIRST SCHOOLS IN THIS COUNTY.

The earliest schools in the county were at Madelia settlement. Credit for the high standard of efficiency of the Madelia schools belongs to no one more than to the present superintendent, J. C. Stradely. Although having served in this capacity only two years, yet during this time the standard of the schools has been raised at least twenty-five per cent. Naturally he has not accomplished this mark alone, as he has been ably assisted by an efficient corps of teachers and an appreciative school board.

The old building, which was constructed of brick, was built in 1892, at a cost of thirty thousand dollars. In time, this building became too small to accommodate the increased attendance and the growing needs of the times. Consequently, these facts led to the construction of a new brick structure in 1914, at a cost of forty-three thousand dollars. The building is thoroughly modern in every respect and is used exclusively by the high school. The enrollment of the entire school in the spring of 1916 was four hundred and thirty. That of the high school was one hundred and seventy-two. Nineteen teachers were employed.

ST. JAMES PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

When a stranger appears in St. James and inquires about the most important institution in the city he immediately receives the answer, "the public schools." The city has one of the best school systems in the state and doubtless the best in this section. No one deserves more credit for this than the present, but retiring, superintendent, Prof. J. C. Davies. However, he gladly shares the credit for this high standard of efficiency with his able corps of teachers, and especially with Professor Young, the present, but retiring, principal of the high school and to whom the state high school inspector gave credit as being one of three best high school principals in the state of Minnesota. With the leadership of such men as these at the head of a school system and aided by a helpful and appreciative school board, it is no wonder that the schools have risen to such a high point of efficiency.

The city school was organized in 1871, the first building being out by the lake. As time advanced this building was outgrown. A new site was selected nearer the center of the town, it being the one on which the high school building now stands. A brick building was constructed, which was thought to be ample for all time. But the folly of this idea has long since been seen, as already two large additions have been made. The first addition was in 1901 and the last one just recently completed, at a cost of forty thousand dollars. With the last addition the school has a complete and modern building and an assembly room that has few equals.

The high school was organized in 1892 and the first graduating class was in 1896, a class many times smaller than that of 1916, which was composed of forty-six members. There are four different courses and perhaps more. They consist of science, language, commercial and industrial arts. The latter course includes complete instruction in domestic science, manual training and agriculture. In the language course, four different languages are offered as follows: Norwegian, Swedish, German and Latin.

The old Northside school building stood near where the Minneapolis & St. Louis depot now stands. With the coming of the railroad a new site was necessary. Mr. M. K. Armstrong, a wealthy landowner and public spirited man, arose to the occasion and donated the site of the present Northside building which bears his name. This building was constructed in 1902, costing twenty-two thousand dollars, fully equipped. In the sixth, seventh and eighth grades the departmental system is used with decided success.

The corps of teachers numbers twenty-six, with a total school enrollment of nearly six hundred and seventy-five. The members of the school board are as follow: President, J. K. Sonnesyn; secretary, L. E. Chamberd; treasurer, Fred Church; W. S. Manning, Marion Clark and A. M. Hanson. The board has succeeded in filling all the vacancies for the coming year. Prof. J. J. Skinner becomes the new superintendent and Mr. Keen Young, the principal.

A MARKED CONTRAST.

In 1882 the school of the village of St. James employed two teachers, with a total enrollment of one hundred and eighty-two; in 1885 there were three teachers and two hundred and two pupils enrolled; in 1890 there were fifteen teachers and five hundred and twenty-five pupils enrolled.

1890 REPORT.

In 1890 the superintendent of the schools in this county gave the following: Pupils entitled to apportionment, eight hundred and eighty-six; not so entitled, four hundred and thirty-nine; total enrolled, thirteen hundred and nine. Average length of school year, five and eight-tenths months per year; teachers employed fifty-eight; average wages paid, \$32.07 for men and \$27.94 for women; number of districts of common schools, forty-eight; total school houses, forty-five; cash on hand, \$6,021; salary of school superintendent, \$480. The superintendent made sixty-two school visits that year. Rate of taxation for schools, one and fifteen-hundredths mills on the dollar.

ROSENDALE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS.

The first schools in Rosendale township were taught in 1869-70. Henry C. Sergent taught in the winter in 1869, at the house of George Knudtson. His sister, Hellen Adell Sergent (now wife of E. Z. Rasey of St. James), taught the following summer in a "spare room" of her father's house. She had an attendance of about twenty pupils, and received for her wages either eighteen or twenty dollars per month. Later, she attended the State Normal school at Mankato and received the appointment of county school superintendent, soon after the office was created in Minnesota. She was examined for her qualifications by State Superintendent H. B. Wilson, at St. Paul. At the hands of the county commissioners she was made

Watonwan county's first woman superintendent, and also has the distinction of being the first woman in Minnesota to hold such an office. She was a teacher at St. James for two years after the first two-story school house was completed. She had sixty pupils and taught an interesting and most highly appreciated school in what is now the city of St. James.

ODIN SCHOOL.

The present building is a two story frame structure constructed in 1902 at a cost of two thousand four hundred and fifty dollars. The school has two teachers and an enrollment of about sixty-eight.

DARFUR SCHOOL.

The school building is located in the southwestern part of town and is surrounded by a beautiful playground. No high school work is offered, but thorough instruction is given in all the grades by two competent teachers. The building consists of a two-room brick structure, erected in 1906 at a cost of three thousand dollars. The enrollment averages about one hundred.

LEWISVILLE SCHOOL.

Under the able leadership of Principal William T. Weld, the school has made great strides toward educational efficiency. The school exhibit of 1916 attracted the attention not only of patrons and friends, but of outsiders as well. Special mention should be made of the sewing and agricultural exhibits, which were excellent.

The school and site are estimated at seven thousand dollars. The building, which was constructed in 1912, is being remodeled to meet the growing needs of the school and community. Three teachers are employed. The enrollment for the past year was ninety-six.

ORMSBY SCHOOL.

In 1901 a two-story frame building was erected at a cost of two thousand dollars. The school board employs two teachers who serve the needs of about fifty school children. The school building was constructed with a two-fold idea. First, as a place of instruction; second, as a social center. The latter idea has been carried out conclusively, as is evidenced by the many gatherings of all kinds held at this building.

BUTTERFIELD SCHOOLS.

The village of Butterfield supports a fine modern school house, costing fourteen thousand dollars. It was erected in 1898 and is a handsome brick structure. Five teachers are employed in these schools and the enrollment is over one hundred and fifty.

PRESENT SCHOOL STATISTICS.

The following facts have been extracted from the county school superintendent's report of July, 1915, which is the last completed report to the state:

There were on that date sixty-one districts in Watonwan county, of the rural and semi-graded class. Nine months were then being taught each year in graded and semi-graded schools of this county and the, strictly speaking, country districts had only seven months, as a rule. The following shows the districts and the number of pupils in each, as per enrollment:

District No.	Pupils.	District No.	Pupils.	District No.	Pupils.
District No. 1.....	40	District No. 22.....	38	District No. 41.....	14
District No. 3.....	15	District No. 23.....	32	District No. 42.....	20
District No. 4.....	26	District No. 24.....	46	District No. 43.....	47
District No. 5.....	4	District No. 25.....	21	District No. 44.....	19
District No. 6.....	32	District No. 26.....	7	District No. 45.....	10
District No. 7.....	18	District No. 27.....	23	District No. 47.....	14
District No. 8.....	21	District No. 28.....	43	District No. 48.....	23
District No. 9.....	12	District No. 29.....	22	District No. 49.....	22
District No. 10.....	18	District No. 30.....	30	District No. 50.....	24
District No. 11.....	28	District No. 31.....	29	District No. 51.....	39
District No. 12.....	21	District No. 32.....	57	District No. 52.....	34
District No. 13.....	29	District No. 33.....	27	District No. 53.....	33
District No. 14.....	24	District No. 34.....	42	District No. 54.....	30
District No. 15.....	55	District No. 35.....	17	District No. 55.....	95
District No. 16.....	21	District No. 36.....	18	District No. 56.....	60
District No. 17.....	18	District No. 37.....	33	District No. 57.....	41
District No. 18.....	33	District No. 38.....	12	District No. 58.....	24
District No. 19.....	29	District No. 39.....	10	District No. 59.....	37
District No. 21.....	31	District No. 40.....	84	District No. 61.....	18

HIGH AND GRADED SCHOOLS.

Madelia independent district had ten departments and seventeen teachers.

Madelia independent district had 103 males and 226 females.

Butterfield (district No. 46) had two departments and five teachers.

Butterfield (district No. 46) had 80 males and 67 females.

St. James (district No. 20) had twelve departments and twenty-five teachers.

St. James (district No. 20) had 311 males and 337 females.

RURAL, INCLUDING SEMI-GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Total number children of school age in county-----	1,670
Average number to each district -----	29
Total number teachers—males, one; females, sixty-one	62
Average wages paid for males per month-----	\$65.00
Average wages paid for females per month-----	49.00

The high and grade schools of this county have the following: Independent district No. 1, five male and twelve female teachers, each paid \$112.00 and \$60.00 per month, respectively.

Independent district No. 20, has five male teachers, each at \$129 per month and twenty female teachers at an average of \$59 per month.

SCHOOL-HOUSE LOCATIONS BY TOWNSHIPS AND SECTIONS.

With the exception of any recent changes, the following table shows the geographical location of the school houses within Watonwan county, the same having been taken from a map of the county prepared a year or two ago:

- Madelia township—at the village.
- Riverdale township—sections 23-25-21-7.
- Nelson township—sections 7-11-18-24.
- Adrian township—sections 8-12-20-26.
- Butterfield township—sections 2-17-26-29—and at village.
- St. James township—sections 2-8-20-35 and at city.
- Rosendale township—sections 8-11-26-28.
- Feldon township—sections 1-7-10-16-23-30.
- Antrim township—sections 4-22.
- South Branch township—sections 11-17-22-31.
- Long Lake township—sections 2-8-18-26-29.
- Odin township—sections 8-11-26-29.

EARLY SCHOOL SCANDAL.

On March 23, 1874, there appeared an advertisement in the *Madelia Times* of a select school to be taught by Prof. A. C. Harrison, as principal, and Miss C. I. Mead, as assistant and teacher of music. According to the advertisement the first term of this school was to begin in Madelia on Monday, April 20, and to continue three months; that the aim of the teachers was to make it a first-class school in every respect and that no pains would be spared to make the school pleasant and profitable to scholars. The tuition rates were as follows: Primary studies, two dollars and twenty-five cents; intermediate, three dollars; higher branches, four dollars and fifty cents; instrumental music, twenty-four lessons, including the use of the organ, ten dollars. Tuition was to be paid half in advance and the remainder at the end of the half term. The advertisement stated that as he had a family he would accept produce in payment of tuition from those not having the ready cash; also that there would be no personal call for soliciting pupils and all desiring to attend to please be present on the morning of commencement.

In the same advertisement appeared a recommendation signed by Prof. E. C. Payne, superintendent of the schools of Blue Earth county. Parents having children of school age, thought that this chance to give their posterity an education was a great opportunity and as a result, on the morning of April 20, there was enrolled a goodly number.

On May 10 there appeared the following headline in the *Madelia Times*, "A rascal and a dead beat," which read as follows: The quiet of our village was somewhat ruffled the latter part of last week by a disgraceful matter coming to light. A little over a month ago a young man calling himself A. C. Harrison came to town and advertised that he and a lady acquaintance would begin a private school on April 20. He had a family of a wife and two children and in due time they came and took rooms at the Flanders House. In two weeks Harrison sends his wife and kids to Ohio, stopping on the way at Winona. Harrison, who had been very gallant toward his assistant, was noticed to be more so. Letters were obtained to show that he was tampering with the affections of the young lady under the pretense of love. He declared to the girl that since meeting her his love for his wife had grown cold; that he was going under an assumed name, his right name being Arthur Morris.

Colonel Vought did not admire these proceedings and promised to

expose Harrison. At first all of the charges were denied, but when letters were produced that he had written to Miss Mead, he considered it time to leave and made his exit by the rear door of the hotel, taking with him the tuition money which many of the patrons had already paid. This was the last ever seen of him. In a few days the young lady school teacher was called home by her mother's illness, which the scandal had caused.

CHAPTER X.

THE BAR OF THIS COUNTY.

The legal profession is no longer looked upon as one in which trickery and deception are practiced in order to gain a large retainer fee. It has for more than a century been looked upon as among the highest of the professions. Indeed, a large majority of our greatest statesmen and law-makers have been lawyers at the bar at one date in their career. We only have to refer to Webster, Everett, Lincoln, Seward or Sumner, to find true examples of noble, talented attorneys, whose influence became world-wide.

Here in Minnesota persons may be admitted to practice law upon an examination before the board of law examiners. No person but an admitted attorney-at-law may commence or conduct any action or proceeding in a court of record to which he is not a party, but this does not prevent a private person from commencing or defending an action in his own behalf. Any graduate of the college of law of the State University may be admitted to practice law upon presentation of his diploma and proof that he is an adult citizen and resident of the state and of good moral character; also the graduates of other colleges of law established in the state. Every attorney shall:

First—Observe and carry out the terms of his oath.

Second—Maintain the respect due to courts of justice and judicial officers.

Third—Counsel or maintain such causes only as appear to him legal and just; but he shall not refuse to defend any person accused of a public offense.

Fourth—Employ, for the maintenance of causes confided to him, such means only as are consistent with truth, and never seek to mislead the judges by any artifice or false statement of fact or law.

Fifth—Keep inviolate the confidence of his client; abstain from offensive personalities, and advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness, unless the justice of his cause requires it.

Sixth—Encourage the commencement or continuation of no action or proceedings from motives of passion or interest; nor may he, for any con-

sideration personal to himself, reject the cause of the defenseless or oppressed.

An attorney in Minnesota may be removed or suspended by the supreme court, on the following grounds: Upon his being convicted of a felony, or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; in either of which cases the record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence. Or upon showing that he has knowingly signed frivolous pleadings, or been guilty of any deceit or wilful misconduct in his profession; or for wilful disobedience of an order of the court requiring him to do or forbear doing an act connected with, or in the course of, his profession.

LIST OF ATTORNEYS IN THIS COUNTY.

Among the well-known attorneys who have from time to time practiced in Watonwan county may be recalled the following: J. W. Seager, J. J. Thornton, Ashley Coffman, W. S. Hammond, Frank Ellsworth, R. H. Burns, Ed. C. Farmer, Albert Running, J. L. Lobben and W. E. Allen.

Concerning these lawyers it may be said that the oldest now in practice in the county is J. W. Seager, still in active law practice at St. James. He was born in Bath county, New York, September 16, 1845. He received his education at Mora Academy, graduating from the law department of Ann Arbor (Michigan) University; was admitted to the bar in Rochester, New York, in December, 1866. After practicing there three years, he came to St. James, Minnesota, where he ever since has been engaged in law practice. He has had for partners both J. L. Lobben and his son, G. W. Seager.

J. L. Lobben was born in Norway, August 1, 1862, in the parish of Ecker. He accompanied his parents to America when he was yet a mere child. The family settled in Wisconsin. He was graduated from the Lutheran College at Decorah, Iowa; came to St. James with his parents in 1870; read law and was admitted to the bar in January, 1896, soon after forming a law partnership with J. W. Seager.

W. E. Allen was born in Marysville, Kentucky, July 1, 1855. His parents moved to Ohio during his youth; in 1876 moved to Iowa, where he resided four years and there read law. In 1880 he returned to Ohio and was admitted to the law practice and followed his profession there a number of years. He came to St. James, Minnesota, in the fall of 1884; taught school one year, and was soon thereafter admitted to the bar in Minnesota. He then taught school at Gordinville, Minnesota, one year and was county

school superintendent two terms in Freeborn county. In 1892 he was elected county attorney, serving one term.

Hon. W. S. Hammond, attorney-at-law, congressman and governor of Minnesota, now deceased, was born in Southboro, Worcester county, Massachusetts, November 17, 1803. He was educated in the East, graduating from Dartmouth College in 1884. He came to Minnesota the same year to accept a position as principal of the Mankato city schools, which place he filled for one school year. He then went to Madelia, Watonwan county, to accept the position of superintendent of the village schools there. He held this position five years, after which he was admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of his profession at Madelia in 1891. He commenced as a member of the firm of Hopkins & Hammond. In 1895 he came to St. James, where he built up a profitable law practice. In 1888 he was a candidate for presidential elector, and in 1892 was the Democratic candidate for congressman in the Second district. In 1894 he was nominated for county attorney on the Democratic ticket and elected. In 1898 he was again nominated for congress by the Democrats, but declined to accept. He held many school offices in the county and state, and was elected governor in 1914, after having served in Congress from 1907 to 1915, and served until his death, in 1916. He made a splendid executive, but was cut down in the prime of his manhood. He was indeed an exceptionally good type of American citizen. As an attorney he was both shrewd and honorable with all with whom he had legal and personal dealings.

Of R. H. Burns it may be stated that he practiced here many years, removed to Oregon and died in that state.

Ashley Coffman practiced in St. James until about 1900, when he removed.

Albert Running has been engaged in law practice in St. James since 1906.

J. J. Thornton is deceased.

PRESENT BAR.

In July, 1916, the members of the Watonwan county bar were as follows: At St. James—J. W. Seager, G. W. Seager, Albert Running, I. L. Lobben, Ed. C. Farmer. At Madelia—A. C. Remele, C. J. Eide. At Lewisville—Joseph Davies.

CHAPTER XI.

PHYSICIANS OF THE COUNTY.

Hand in hand with the vanguard of civilization and the tread of the earliest pioneers, in almost every country, is the physician, who is as essential to the building up of a community as any other class of men—in fact, he is vastly more needed than anyone of the other professions in the first settlement of new countries. The family doctor, be he learned or unlearned, be he of what school of medicine he may, when the fevered brow and parched lip of the fever-stricken sufferer languishes on the sick bed in some humble cabin or sod house, is always a welcome visitor. With all that men may say, in time of full, robust health, of doctors and their medicine chests, there comes a time when his presence is needed and his services appreciated. This was the case away back in the homestead days of Watonwan county, when the little band of settlers was far from civilized life and from railroads, towns and cities of any considerable importance.

With the passing decades the science of medicine has made very marked advancement, until today the methods employed are far less to be dreaded in the sick chamber than years ago. The remedies are more effectual and less nauseating, and the percentage of deaths much less than in former years. Especially, has surgery made rapid strides and what was once considered almost impossible, is now performed with comparative ease and certainty.

The earliest doctors in this part of Minnesota had their hardships and were not paid in proportion to their services. Many bills were never paid and many physicians died poor. They waded sloughs and unbridged streams, by day and at night. They faced the storms of our cold, long winters, and endured the bad roads and burning suns of many a weary summer season, until the county was more improved and conditions were generally more comfortable. They made history, as they made their weekly rounds among their patients, but had no time to make a record of their goings and comings. Hence, it is with no little difficulty that the writer has been able to secure even as much as he has on this topic.

PHYSICIANS WHO HAVE REGISTERED HERE.

The following physicians have registered in Watonwan county, under the various state requirements:

Charles O. Cooley, Madelia, graduated in 1877 and registered here in 1883.

Thede Kirk, St. James, Rush Medical College, graduated in 1881.

Charles R. Bacon, St. James, Eclectic Medical College, Ohio, graduated in 1877. He registered in this county in 1884.

W. H. Shaver, Madelia, McGill University, Canada, graduated and came to Watonwan county in 1883.

Henry H. Herring, Miami Medical College, Ohio, 1873, registered here in 1884.

Henry H. Grosbach, St. James, Eclectic Medical Institute, January, 1885.

James M. Smith, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Des Moines, Iowa, 1886.

William H. Rowe, St. James, Rush Medical College, class of 1882; came here in 1884.

Perry H. Munger, St. James, came here in 1891.

Lawson L. McCurdy, Madelia, 1893.

Abram Siemunds, Butterfield, 1895.

William J. McCarthy, Madelia, state diploma, 1897.

Knud M. O. Leigeni, St. James, City of New York, 1874.

Fred E. Franchere, St. James, 1895, diploma.

Iven S. Runstad, Madelia, 1876, diploma.

Edwin Martin Johnson, St. James, registered in 1898.

James B. Lewis, St. James, University of Pennsylvania, 1894.

John Edward Doran, St. James, state diploma, 1898.

B. H. Haynes, St. James, state diploma, 1902.

Joseph N. Flynn, Madelia, state diploma, 1901.

Ole Elland Hogen, Butterfield, registered in 1903.

M. F. Christian Jellstrop, registered in 1903.

Ola Andrew Kabrick, registered in this county in 1908.

Other doctors known to have practiced in this county were: Doctors Cottrell, Putnam, Neel, O'Connor, W. H. Rowe, Jr., Decaster, a surgeon who divided his time between this county and Mankato; Thompson, and the present massage doctors of St. James, Doctors Strinberg and Beckstrom.

Other early physicians are referred to in the records of the county as being Dr. William D. Smith, of Madelia, who was county physician in 1870; Dr. George Christopherson, in 1868; Doctor Stoddard, the records show, was allowed twenty dollars for medical services for this county in 1870.

Dr. F. E. Franchere, physician and surgeon, located in St. James in 1895. He was born at North San Juan, California, July 14, 1866. His parents came to Minnesota in 1869. He graduated from the medical department of the state of Minnesota in the class of 1890; spent the next three years as house physician in the Minneapolis city hospital. He was then appointed on the regular staff of the Rochester hospital for the insane, where he remained for two years; then went to Europe, studying at Paris and London, after which he was appointed to the chair of nervous diseases and insanity in the Sioux City College of Medicine, and also clinical instructor of medicine. On account of ill health he soon after came to St. James, Minnesota. In the spring of 1895 he was married, and soon after came to St. James, Minnesota. In the spring of 1898 he was appointed general surgeon for the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad Company; in 1899 he was appointed surgeon for the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company at St. James, and was also coroner of Watonwan county.

Dr. J. B. Lewis, physician and surgeon, was born in December, 1855, at York, Pennsylvania; graduated from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania; practiced in that state for six years; came to St. Paul in 1885, and engaged in practice there until 1893, when he moved to Waseca, where he practiced seven years. He came to St. James in the spring of 1901. He was a member of the American Medical Association and the Minnesota Medical Association.

Dr. P. H. Munger, physician and surgeon, was born in Ohio; graduated from the medical department of Michigan University at Ann Arbor. He commenced practice in 1893.

Dr. D. F. O'Connor, physician and surgeon, was born in Washington county, Minnesota, December 23, 1864. He was reared to farm labor and educated at the country district schools and at St. Croix Valley Academy, graduating from the medical department of the University of Minnesota in 1890. Two years later he opened an office at Grand Meadow; in November, 1890, he came to St. James. While at Grand Meadow he served two terms as mayor of the city.

Dr. W. H. Rowe, physician and surgeon, was born at Madison, Wisconsin, July 4, 1858; educated at the University of Wisconsin and Rush

Medical College, Chicago, soon after engaging in the practice at Minnesota Lake, coming to St. James about 1890. He is a member of the American and State Medical Associations.

MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Watonwan County Medical Society was organized January 10, 1900, with the following officers: Dr. C. O. Cooley, president; Dr. F. E. Franchere, vice-president; Dr. J. A. Prim, secretary and treasurer. The charter members were as follow: Dr. C. O. Cooley, Dr. W. H. Rowe, Dr. F. E. Franchere, Dr. W. J. McCarthy, Dr. L. L. McCurdy, Dr. S. S. Reimestad, Dr. O. E. Linger, Dr. J. A. Prim, Dr. J. Williams, Dr. A. F. Hunte and Dr. C. C. Donaldson.

The purpose of this society is to bring into one organization the physicians of Watonwan county, so that by frequent meetings and full and frank interchange of views they may secure such intelligent unity and harmony in every phase of their labor as will elevate and make effective the opinions of the profession in all scientific, legislative, public health, material and social affairs, to the end that the profession may receive that respect and support within its ranks and from the community to which its honorable history and great achievements entitle it; and with other societies to form the Minnesota State Medical Association, and through it, with other state associations, to form and maintain the American Medical Association.

Every legally registered physician residing and practicing in Watonwan county, who is of good moral and professional standing and who does not support or practice, or claim to practice, any exclusive system of medicine, is eligible for membership.

Following is a list of physicians, and a short sketch of each, who have practiced in this county during the last ten or twelve years, but who have since moved away or died: Charles P. Bissel, Lewisville, born in 1852, graduated from Iowa University, 1875, and licensed by act of 1877. Charles O. Cooley, Madelia, born in 1850, graduated from Maryland, 1876, licensed in 1883, later attended Washington College of Delaware. Thorwald J. Jensen, Madelia, born in 1881, graduate of Hamlin, Minnesota, 1907; licensed 1907. James B. Lewis, St. James, born in 1855, graduate of Pennsylvania, 1878, licensed in 1885. William H. Rowe, St. James, born in 1858, graduate of Rush College, 1882, licensed in 1884, died on February 4, 1915.

The roster of the physicians practicing in the county in 1916 included the following: Ole E. Hagen, Butterfield, born in 1871, graduate of Illinois University, 1903, licensed in 1903, attended the Physicians and Surgeons College of Chicago. William J. McCarthy, Madelia, born in 1868, graduate of Illinois University, 1897, licensed in 1897, attended Northwestern University. H. B. Grimes, Madelia, born in 1877, graduate of Michigan, 1903, licensed in 1904. O. A. Kabrick, Odin, born in 1880, graduated from Keokuk, Iowa, 1906, licensed in 1909. Benjamin Hubert Haynes, St. James, born in 1874, graduate of Illinois University, 1902, licensed in 1902, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago. W. H. Rowe, Jr., St. James, born in 1884, graduate of Rush College, 1909, licensed in 1910. Albert Thompson, St. James, born in 1872, graduate of Minnesota University, 1905, licensed in 1905.

The present officers of the Watonwan County Medical Society are as follow: Albert Thompson, president; H. B. Grimes, vice-president; B. H. Haynes, secretary-treasurer.

EARLY PHYSICIAN'S FEES.

A medical society in this county had fees advertised as follow: Visits in town, one dollar; visits in the country, one dollar and fifty cents per mile; office practice, one dollar; a complicated or obstinate case, ten dollars; examination, one to five dollars.

CHAPTER XII.

NEWSPAPERS OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

The power of the press is not alone confined to the city, but in all intelligent communities where there is even a village of any considerable importance, one expects, and usually finds a local newspaper printed. Public opinion is largely moulded by the newspapers of a county. It is through the medium of the local paper that a community learn the news of their immediate vicinity and also get the most striking and, to them, the most important items of the news of the world. Any accident, fire, robbery, great battle or uprising in any remote part of the globe which may transpire today will be flashed on wings guided by electricity, to our section and the local printer has it for his issue tomorrow.

FIRST PAPER IN COUNTY.

Madelia has the distinction of having had the first newspaper and also the first banking institution in Watonwan county. The pioneer newspaper was the *Madelia Times*, which finally consolidated with the *Messenger*, forming the present *Times-Messenger*. The *Times* was established in 1871 by Benjamin C. Sanborn, who conducted it until 1899, after which his son, W. Y. Sanborn, conducted it until 1903. The Sanborn interests were sold to W. W. Cole in 1904, a few weeks after the consolidation of the two papers. Perry Bestor bought the interest held in the *Messenger* by Grant Riggle, and the firm was then styled Cole & Bestor, who subsequently sold to Hinchon and Gauderian, the latter dropping out, leaving the property in the hands of W. D. Hinchon, present owner. After selling out, Grant Riggle started another newspaper at Madelia, but this only existed for a few issues. The *Messenger* was established at an early date by Sumner Brainard, of St. James, who conducted it for some time and sold the plant to C. F. Mallahan, who in turn sold to Benjamin Cole. From Cole it passed into the hands of W. R. Estes, who built it up more than any other man who ever owned it previously, or subsequently. The next change was when it was purchased by C. W. Higgins, who sold to Grant Riggle. He later took as a partner Perry Bestor, and they owned it until it merged with the *Madelia Times*, since it has been styled the *Times-Messenger*. The pres-

ent owner and editor, W. D. Hinchon, purchased all other interests in the property.

The present paper is a six-column folio, but at one time was an eight-column quarto. Its subscription rate is one dollar and fifty cents per year. It has a good circulation in Watonwan and surrounding counties. Politically, it is an independent Republican newspaper. The equipment consists of a four-page newspaper press, two good job presses, newspaper folder, paper cutter, stapler, perforator, linotype machine, a great variety of job type, and all other necessary equipment for the execution of first-class printing. The *Times-Messenger* is issued every Friday and is now in its forty-second year of publication. It is the official paper of Watonwan county, the village of Madelia and also of the village of Lewisville, for the present year—1916.

THE MADELIA NEWS.

This newspaper was established in November, 1915, by Will Y. Sanborn. It is an eight-page, six-column paper, all home print, and its yearly subscription rate is one dollar and fifty cents. It has a circulation in Watonwan county, for the most part of its issue. In politics it is a Republican journal. Its proprietor is a native of this county, born in the village of Madelia in 1876, a son of Benjamin C. Sanborn, the founder of the county's first newspaper. He conducted the *Times* (the first paper) for five years and then after an absence of eleven years returned to Madelia and established the *News*. While away he was in the far West, and at Pomeroy, Washington, a part of the time named, he was interested in the *Standard*, and at Pasco in the publication of the *Express*. The equipment of the *News* is up-to-date. Among such equipment may be named a two-revolution Cottrell paper press, a Chandler & Price jobber, and a linotype machine. The office employs electric motor power to drive its machinery.

THE ST. JAMES PLAINDEALER.

The *St. James Plaindealer* was established in 1890 by C. W. Foote, and with the passage of years it has been conducted by Messrs. Foote, Thomas, Torsen, G. J. Keenan, O. C. Cole and Will Curtis. In form and size the *Plaindealer* has always been a six-column quarto paper; at first "patent insides" were employed, but at present it is all home print. Politically, this newspaper is progressive Republican. Its subscription rate is one

dollar and fifty cents a year in advance. It has a good circulation in Watonwan county. The equipment of the office includes a Taylor drum-cylinder press for printing the newspaper; a Universal jobber, fourteen by twenty-one inches; a Chandler & Price jobber, a newspaper folder and the usual amount of up-to-date type. Electric power drives the machinery of the office—a wonderful contrast to that of the one-man power it required in early days to run the old Washington handpress. The publication of newspapers in these times marks fully as much advancement over old methods as may be found in any other branch of business.

ST. JAMES JOURNAL-GAZETTE.

The *St. James Journal* was established in 1878; the *St. James Gazette* was established in 1896; the two papers were merged in 1906. The *Gazette* was established by W. D. Bell, present owner of the *Journal-Gazette*. The property was leased to Sullivan & Gushman, December 1, 1915. The paper was a six-column, eight-page journal at first, but is now a seven-column paper of eight pages. It is Republican in its political influence and bearings. Its subscription rate is one dollar and fifty cents in advance, and has most of its circulation in Watonwan county. The general equipment is first-class in every detail, and includes gasoline motor power. In all that is good the *Journal-Gazette* affords the best.

Concerning the early and later proprietors of these papers, let it be said that the first paper in St. James was the *Herald*, which was established in March, 1873, by G. W. Tanner. This paper had to cease its issue on account of the great grasshopper scourge in the seventies—it ran three years and there was no newspaper in the place for three years. In 1878, when St. James became the county seat, W. A. Chapman established the *Journal*. He conducted it ably until his death, in January, 1890, after which his widow carried on the business, until she had to give it up on account of having to properly care for her fatherless children. The next proprietor was E. J. Lynch, who continued to run it until he sold to W. D. Bell. He took a partner, W. M. Barrett, and the *Journal* and *Gazette* merged in March, 1906, with the names of Barrett and Bell as proprietors.

THE ST. JAMES INDEPENDENT

The *St. James Independent* was established December 5, 1911, by F. W. and H. W. Haislet. On June 1, 1915, H. W. Haislet purchased his

partner's interest, since which time he has been sole owner. This is a neat, well-edited, well-printed publication, issued weekly in the form of a six-column quarto paper, with a subscription rate of one dollar and fifty cents per year. It circulates mostly in the territory of St. James and Watonwan county. The present proprietor, H. W. Haislet, was formerly publisher of the *Butterfield Advocate* in this county, and was there the greater part of fifteen years, making him now the oldest newspaper man in point of service in the county. The *Independent* office is well equipped with all the necessary and up-to-date machinery and type suitable for a newspaper and job printing office, in the twentieth century. The paper is independent in its politics, true to its name. This office turns out large quantities of commercial, plain and fancy printing, including pamphlets, bank checks, etc. With his wide acquaintance in this section of Minnesota, Mr. Haislet edits a readable, interesting and newsy local paper.

THE BUTTERFIELD ADVOCATE.

The *Advocate*, at the village of Butterfield, was established in 1897 by F. Caldwell, who sold to Winfield Sylvester, he to L. C. Elwell, he to Lysne Publishing Company, they to W. G. Finch, he to H. W. Haislet, and he to J. W. Hubin. The present form and size of the paper is a six-column quarto sheet. Its price per year is one dollar and a quarter. It circulates in Butterfield, Odin, Darfur, St. James and Mountain Lake villages and towns; practically covering the entire western end of this county. Politically, the paper is independent. The *Times* at Butterfield was absorbed by the *Advocate* in 1904-5. The Lysne Publishing Company also bought a paper at Bingham Lake, and consolidated the material with the *Advocate* equipment. The present office has among its equipment a two-revolution Campbell newspaper press, a fourteen by twenty-two Cincinnati platen jobber, a ten by twelve Gordon jobber, and a seven by eleven Pearl jobber; a thirty-inch paper cutter, Junior linotype, a perforator, staplers, imposing stones, two gasoline engines and a quantity of job and news type.

ST. JAMES HERALD.

Number 1, volume 1, of the *St. James Herald*, was dated Friday, February 28, 1873, and was edited and owned by G. W. Tanner. It survived about two years.

CHAPTER XIII.

BANKS AND BANKING IN WATONWAN COUNTY.

A bank is an institution, under public control, having a place of business where credits are opened by the deposit of money and currency, subject to be paid upon check or order, and where money is advanced and loaned on stocks and commercial paper and where the same are received for discount or sale. Any person so operating, whether incorporated or not, is a banker. No person may use the name "bank" in connection with his business, unless the same be under the supervision of the superintendent of banks. Banks are now of three kinds: State banks, organized under the laws of the commonwealth; savings banks, organized by special charter, or under the general savings bank law; national banks, organized under the national banking laws.

The superintendent of banks, at least annually, and as much oftener as he deems necessary, has the right to visit and examine the business and officers of any such corporation, except a national bank, and ascertain its financial condition. Whenever he finds a state or savings bank in such condition that its further operation is hazardous to the public interest, he may take possession of the same and report to the governor. A state bank may commence the transaction of business only when it has the certificate of such superintendent of banks, authorizing it to do so. State banks are prohibited from indicating in any way that they are authorized to transact the business which a savings bank usually does, but a national bank, being an institution incorporated under the national banking laws, is not subject to state law in so far, and such banks may create and maintain a savings bank department.

National banks are such as are organized under the government's banking act, and must have a capital of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars. Each stockholder is not only liable for the amount of his stock, but is liable in an additional amount of such stock. Any person engaged in banking who receives deposits after a bank has become insolvent, is guilty of a criminal offense.

THE FIRST BANK IN WATONWAN COUNTY.

The first bank in Watonwan county was the Watonwan County Bank, established at the village of Madelia in the seventies, probably first owned

by Joseph Flanders, who later sold his interest, at any rate, to Judge Cooley, and sometime in 1880, he sold to A. H. Benton, who sold his interest to the present First National Bank of Madelia, and became cashier of the latter institution, continuing for two years, when he resigned. The original bank was taken over by the First National Bank in 1904. It was in January, 1904, that the doors of the new bank were thrown open to the public. Its organization was perfected by C. S. Christensen, Sr., E. L. Gove, A. H. Benton, J. E. Haycraft, C. T. Dahl and F. H. Wellcome. The officers at first were: F. H. Wellcome, president; C. S. Christensen, Sr., vice-president; C. T. Dahl, vice-president; A. H. Benton, cashier, and L. J. Olson, assistant cashier. The 1916 officers are as follow: C. B. Christensen, Sr., president; Charles Russell, vice-president; C. T. Dahl, cashier and F. H. Hillesheim, assistant cashier.

The first (and present) capital was twenty-five thousand dollars. The resources and liabilities are now three hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars, with surplus and profits amounting to five thousand seven hundred dollars. The recent deposits are named in the report as being three hundred thousand dollars. This bank is a member of the Federal Reserve Bank, ninth district.

The comparative statement of total resources of this concern is as follows: At the close of the years from 1904 to 1916 the resources were: In 1904, \$98,302; in 1905, \$106,906; in 1906, \$111,921; in 1907, \$110,654; in 1908, \$115,564; in 1909, \$152,606; in 1910, \$184,179; in 1911, \$196,872; in 1912, \$222,005; in 1913, \$255,458; in 1914, \$296,223; in 1915, \$335,245. This bank now pays five per cent on its deposits, and still manages to make profits for the stockholders. They write insurance and make many farm loans.

THE FIRST BANK AT ST. JAMES.

The pioneer banking concern at St. James was what was legally named the "Bank of St. James," but usually in latter days known as "The Old Bank." Its last quarters were in the present Sanitarium building—the old Park Hotel. It was established in 1878 and in 1903 it had a capital of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, but during that year was forced into the hands of a receiver and a set of trustees closed up its business at a loss to its depositors. It was established by Moses K. Armstrong and was counted the strongest banking house in all southern Minnesota. For many years it had the confidence of everyone in this county and seemed to be conducted along good business lines, and at one time boasted of its two-hundred-thou-

sand-dollar capital, with a backing of much greater amount. It handled much real estate, as Armstrong was one of the largest landowners in Watonwan county, having farms, wild land and a great amount of village and city property in this and adjoining counties. In 1901 the officers serving were: Moses K. Armstrong, president; W. T. Borden, cashier; T. Kolstad, bookkeeper.

In three months of the year 1890 this bank issued drafts and checks to the amount of over one million dollars and grain checks paid to farmers who sold grain at the three St. James elevators amounting to \$327,416.

It was wound up after several years of hard work on the part of the trustees. The community in general never believed Mr. Armstrong dishonest, but rather that his methods were not good business policy and the manner of keeping his accounts was not of the correct kind for good banking. To the date of his failure he was accounted a model man in every particular and did much for the county and for the county seat, in liberal donations, in way of grounds for industries and public buildings, including the school grounds, where stands the beautiful Armstrong school.

CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK, ST. JAMES.

The Citizens National Bank at St. James, was organized in 1904 by T. K. Haugen and H. M. Serkland, with officers as follow: T. K. Haugen, president; H. M. Serkland, cashier. The 1916 officials are: C. R. Manwaring, president; Thomas Offerdal, vice-president; A. M. Hanson, cashier; V. A. Malmrose, assistant cashier. The directors' board is composed of the following gentlemen: C. R. Manwaring, Thomas Offerdal, A. M. Hanson, J. C. Ranseen and Albert Johnson. A bank building was constructed in 1899 of solid brick walls.

The capital is the same as when organized—twenty-five thousand dollars; the surplus and profits amounts to thirty thousand dollars, and the amount of deposits at June, 1916, was two hundred and forty thousand dollars. Its officers are well-known men in southern Minnesota.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ST. JAMES.

The first National Bank of St. James, was established March 31, 1893, by Frank O'Meara. The officers at first were Thomas Velum, president; Clinton Ellsworth, vice-president; Frank O'Meara, cashier. This bank succeeded the old State Bank of St. James, organized in 1890. During the panic of 1893-4, the First National Bank went through unscathed. It com-

menced on the same capital it now works under—fifty thousand dollars. It has a surplus and profits amounting to \$36,550, and deposits on May 1, 1916, amounting to \$347,531.74. The statement on the date just given showed that the resources and liabilities amounted to \$520,132.91. Among the items therein enumerated are these: Loans and discounts, \$368,756.35; coin and certificates, \$25,573.20; real estate owned by the bank, \$11,495.60; individual deposits which are subject to check, \$98,924.21; certificates due in less than thirty days, \$21,647.80; certificates of deposit, \$234,191.28. In 1892 their solid brick building was erected at a cost of thirty-two thousand dollars, and it has all of the modern improvements for the successful transaction of a large banking business. The 1916 officers are: J. S. Sonnesyn, president; Clinton Ellsworth, vice-president; Thomas Tennesen, cashier; W. F. Schoffman and E. C. Veltum, assistant.

SECURITY STATE BANK OF ST. JAMES.

This bank was organized August 1, 1903, by W. P. Rempel, W. S. Hammond, F. E. Veltum, C. J. Wenstrom and William Oetting. The first capital was the same as carried today—fifty thousand dollars. Its surplus and profits are now ten thousand dollars, while its recent deposits are one hundred and ninety-nine thousand dollars. At the close of business, March 7, 1916, the statement shows the following: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$239,261.01; overdrafts, \$515.63; bank and fixtures, \$1,500.00; checks and cash due from other banks, \$32,813.85; bonds and securities, \$2,000.00; sundry expenses, \$754.44. Total, \$276,844.93. Liabilities—Capital and surplus, \$6,000.00; undivided profits, net, none; deposits, \$216,844.93. Total, \$276,844.93.

The first officers of this bank were as follow: W. P. Rempel, president; C. J. Wenstrom, vice-president; F. E. Veltum, cashier; William Oetting and W. S. Hammond, directors. The 1916 officers are: W. P. Rempel, president; William Oetting, vice-president; M. H. Hammond, cashier; Marion Clark, assistant cashier; W. P. Rempel, William Oetting, M. H. Hammond, Marion Clark and David Rempel, directors.

ODIN STATE BANK.

The Odin State Bank was organized June 9, 1904, with first officers as follow: W. M. Jacobson, president; N. J. Lervick, vice-president; J. C. Jensen, cashier. The present officers are: J. C. Lensen, president; W. M. Jacobson, vice-president; P. T. Laingen, cashier; T. P. Laingen, assistant

cashier. The board of directors are Messrs. W. M. Jacobson, J. C. Jensen, A. Jacobson, M. Jensen, T. P. Laingen, C. S. Hammer and O. H. Fossum. The capital is ten thousand dollars, same as when established. It now has a surplus of thirty thousand dollars, and a recent report shows deposits to the amount of one hundred and one thousand nine hundred and ninety-four dollars.

This bank succeeded to the Odin Bank, a private concern, established in 1901. The present brick building was erected in 1914, at a cost of thirty-five hundred dollars. A general banking business is transacted; also real estate, farm loans and general insurance business is carried on. The subjoined is part of their March, 1916, statement: Resources: Loans and discounts, \$98,664.42; overdrafts, \$103.15; bank and fixtures, \$4,650.00; total cash assets, \$11,036.00; checks and cash items, \$551.47. Total, \$118,005.75. Liabilities: Total deposits, \$100,994.91. Capital stock, \$10,000.00; surplus fund, \$2,000.00; undivided profits, net, \$2,010.84; bills payable, etc., \$3,000.00. Total liabilities, \$118,005.75.

MERCHANTS STATE BANK, LEWISVILLE.

The Merchants State Bank at Lewisville was organized on January 22, 1902, by Adolph Sucker. Its first officers were: William F. Sucker, president; T. M. Lewis, vice-president; Adolph Sucker, cashier, and F. M. Gillett, assistant cashier. The 1916 officers are as follow: James Lewis, president; T. N. Marsden, vice-president; Adolph Sucker, cashier and Percy E. Lewis, assistant cashier.

The first capital was ten thousand dollars, which has been increased to twenty thousand dollars. Its present resources and liabilities amount to one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, with surplus and profits amounting to three thousand five hundred dollars. The recent statements show the amount in deposits to be one hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars. This bank is owned solely by citizens of Lewisville and it has doubled its stock by its earnings, since 1902, a record seldom achieved by any bank in so short a time. It owns its bank building, which is a brick-stone structure erected in 1903.

PEOPLES STATE BANK, BUTTERFIELD.

The Peoples State Bank, of Butterfield, was organized May 18, 1903, by B. Rempel, A. V. High, J. Koller and John Rempel, with a capital of

ten thousand dollars, same as it operates under today. The first officers were as follow: B. Rempel, president; A. V. High, vice-president; J. Koller, cashier, and they are the same today except that John Heppne is vice-president in place of Mr. High. This bank now has deposits amounting to seventy thousand dollars, with a surplus and profit of four thousand dollars. A general commercial banking business is transacted in this institution.

THE STATE BANK OF BUTTERFIELD.

The State Bank of Butterfield was organized in 1904, by J. K. Sommesyn and Thomas Thompson, of St. James, G. A. Kintzi, A. Syverson, J. F. Enns, and J. Brogger of Butterfield. The capital stock is same as when organized—twelve thousand dollars. At first the officers were as follow: G. A. Kintzi, president; J. F. Enns, vice-president and E. Brogger, cashier. They are the same now except that J. Brogger is president and E. Brogger, cashier. In 1915 a splendid bank building was erected by this corporation. The lot on which it stands cost fifteen hundred dollars, and the structure itself cost ten thousand dollars, with fixtures amounting to thirty-five hundred dollars.

The present (June, 1916) resources and liabilities are one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The surplus and profits are eight thousand seven hundred dollars and they have deposits at the last accounting, one hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars.

FARMERS STATE BANK, ORMSBY.

The Farmers State Bank at Ormsby, was organized July 1, 1901. Its first officers were: E. S. Ormsby, president; Christ Struck, vice-president; A. H. Peterson, cashier. In 1916 the officers are: A. C. Brown, president; John Toedt, vice-president; F. D. Klocow, cashier. The capital is ten thousand dollars, same as when organized. A general banking business is transacted here in a building owned by the stockholders. The surplus and undivided profits in May, 1916, were twenty-four hundred dollars, with deposits amounting to forty-five thousand dollars.

THE STATE BANK OF LA SALLE.

The State Bank of LaSalle, Minnesota, was organized July 24, 1906, by M. S. Dossett, C. Evanson, Silver Hage, T. C. Hovde and Hans Sigurd-

son, with possibly a few others. The first and present officers are: T. C. Hovde, president; Hans Sigurdson, vice-president; O. E. Sundt, cashier. The present assistant cashier is Sig. Skarphol. The capital stock of this bank is ten thousand dollars. They do business in a building which they erected in 1906—a frame structure costing fifteen hundred dollars. Here a general banking business is conducted. The resources and liabilities in June, 1916, were one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; surplus and undivided profits at that date were seven thousand four hundred dollars. The deposits are now one hundred and thirty thousand dollars. The present board of directors is made up as follows: Hans Sigurdson, M. S. Dossett, A. H. Shellum, T. C. Hovde and O. E. Sundt.

STATE BANK OF DARFUR.

The State Bank of Darfur was organized June 10, 1903, by W. P. Rempel, D. D. Hiebert, Theo. Kintzi, Charles W. Stark, Frank Balzer, J. H. Dickman and Diedrich Heppner. Ten thousand dollars was the first and is the present capital stock. The first officers were: J. H. Dickman, president; D. D. Hiebert, vice-president; Carl Klein, cashier. Those serving today (1916) are: W. P. Hempel, president; Diedrich Heppner, vice-president; Theo. Englin, cashier; Paul Connor, assistant cashier.

A frame bank building was erected in 1900 at an expense of one thousand dollars. In June, 1916, they had resources and liabilities to match, amounting to one hundred and forty-two thousand seven hundred and thirty-one dollars. The surplus and profits amounted to five thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven dollars, with a showing of deposits of one hundred and twenty-four thousand four hundred and seventy-nine dollars. In March, 1916, they had in the reserve fund over twenty thousand dollars, whereas they were only required to have on hand eighty-seven hundred and thirty dollars.

The board of directors who manage this bank is composed of M. H. Hammond, Frank Balzer, W. P. Rempel, Theo. Englin, C. W. Stark, D. Heppner and C. Elg.

CHAPTER XIV.

FRATERNAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

In these days in nearly all intelligent communities one finds active, energetic and influential lodges of various secret orders. The time has long since passed when such societies were regarded as questionable. After many years of lodge activities in the world, men and women, too, have come to see that good only comes from well conducted lodges of secret organizations. Among the oldest, most powerful and far-reaching of such fraternities is the Masonic order, which has in its membership many of the best men of both church and state. To be a good Mason means to be a good man, in whom all may confide and have confidence, and when this is not true such a one may be branded as a "black sheep."

MASONRY IN ST. JAMES.

Libanus Lodge No. 96, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at St. James, was organized by charter, January 15, 1873, by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. The charter members of this Masonic lodge were as follow: Lee Hensley, Blinn Converse, S. C. Clark, G. H. Herrick, C. Plumstead, Rice Converse, Seth F. Herrick, J. W. Lydick, George Hunsaker, J. J. Thornton, H. Foster and E. H. Reynolds.

The second floor of the Schoffman building is leased by the order at the present time for lodge room purposes. The total membership of the lodge is one hundred and fifteen. The officers in June, 1916, were: B. F. Clements, worshipful master; Thomas Irving, senior warden; J. L. Loben, junior warden; A. M. Card, secretary. The only other Masonic lodge in the county is the one located at Madelia.

Madelia Lodge No. 66, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized on October 23, 1867, with a charter membership as follows: Hart Montgomery, Bowen Yates, John Doolittle, Josiah T. Stark, Jonathan T. Furbery, Albert G. Perkins, James P. Hoycroft, R. W. Montgomery, Charles G. Mullen, William C. Rhoades.

The lodge now has a membership of seventy-five. This lodge and the

Order of Eastern Star of Madelia work in conjunction and one sustains the other to a good degree.

The first officers of the blue lodge here were Hart Montgomery, Bowen Yates and John Doodittle; while those of today are: E. E. Douglass, worshipful master; J. W. Smith, senior warden; A. B. Gjervik, secretary.

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR.

Madelia Chapter No. 3, Order of Eastern Star, was organized on May 12, 1898, by William Patton, grand patron; Flora Adams, patron and grand matron. It now has seventy-five members. Its charter members included the following: C. W. Seymour, America Hopkins, Mary Gross, Harriet Dossett, Edith Hopkins, Hattie E. Seymour, Mary Seymour, E. C. Gross, M. S. Dosett, W. R. Smith, Harriet Pomeroy, Eliza Smith, L. M. Pomeroy, Charlotte Sylvester, Eva Shannon, Nora Hopkins, Nellie Estes, Mary Cooley, Isabelle Benton, W. R. Estes, Rosella Estes, Alas Sanborn, J. E. Haycroft, C. A. Trowbridge, A. H. Benton, Ardelia Bisbee, Lizzie Young, F. L. Mullen, W. A. Mullen.

The first officers included these: Mary Gross, worthy matron; M. S. Dosett, worthy patron; Eliza Smith, associate matron.

The present officers are as follow: Fannie Mitchell, worthy matron; M. S. Dosett, worthy patron; Clara Seymour, associate matron; Hattie E. Dosett, conductress; Lizzie Helling, associate conductress; Hattie S. Kitchen, secretary; C. F. Larson, treasurer.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

This is one of the oldest orders in the world outside the Masonic fraternity. Madelia Lodge No. 116, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized at the village of Madelia, November 20, 1886, by Deputy Grand Master Samuel Winshep, assisted by degree staff from Mankato Lodge No. 15. The original members of the Madelia lodge were as follow: Charles Cooley, Caleb D. Ash, Charles W. Kendall, Charles S. Mitchell, James C. Smith, H. M. Beardsley. The lodge now enjoys a membership of one hundred and twenty. They purchased the second story of the Flanders block at a cost of four thousand dollars, in 1909.

The first elective officers were: Charles S. Mitchell, noble grand; Charles W. Kendall, vice-grand; Charles Cooley, secretary; Caleb D. Ash, treasurer. Those serving in 1916 are as follow: Stanley C. Sprague,

noble grand; William E. Glasgow, vice-grand; Albert Gjervik, secretary; Nels Nelson, financial secretary, and John M. Sprague, treasurer.

LODGE OF THE REBEKAHS.

Madelia Rebekah Lodge No. 157, instituted on November 7, 1896, by Mrs. Hotailing, of Mapleton, Minnesota, and assisted by degree staff of the lodge at Mankato. The first officers were: Mrs. Sara Clark, noble grand; Mrs. Nellie Gove, vice-grand; Mrs. Hattie Gove, recording secretary; Mrs. Cisney, financial secretary; Mrs. Anna Christensen, treasurer. The officers in 1916 are as follow: Mrs. Maggie Ahlness, noble grand; Mrs. Mary Grimes, vice-grand; Mrs. Alberta McCarthy, secretary; Mrs. Kitty Nelson, financial secretary, and Mrs. Nellie Gove, treasurer.

Watonwan Lodge No. 237, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized June 23, 1893, by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, with charter members as follow: E. A. Gibbs, C. E. Fuller, E. M. Jones, T. E. Aldrich, G. J. Keenan, E. N. Spaulding, G. H. Toxley, J. L. Loben, J. J. Schultz, John Luft.

The total membership in June, 1916, was one hundred and seventeen. Lodge room quarters are now had over the Boston clothing store. The present officers are as follow: J. L. Beck, noble grand; W. W. Brown, vice-grand; A. M. Card, secretary.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

This order is represented at St. James by a lodge organized in May, 1892, and is known as St. James Lodge No. 107. Its first officers and charter members were as follow: B. L. Gates, past chancellor; F. W. Hunter, vice-chancellor; G. R. Newman, keeper of records and seal; A. K. Hauger, master of finance; W. G. Manning, master of exchequer; H. Zimmerman, master at arms; E. W. Cook, inside guard; L. C. Bergman, outside guard; Lars Swensen, W. S. Weed, E. L. Durlin, L. C. Anderson, J. F. Treffery, T. W. Edwards, Bert Bertranson, Otto Bergman, Joseph Durrenbeger, John Albert, A. Warnke, H. H. Olson, C. G. Kittleson, W. S. Trowbridge, S. Brainard, Joseph Carr, C. H. Duryer, A. Sturm.

The present officers are as follow: M. A. Hammond, chancellor; Herman Serombo, vice-chancellor; Gerhardt Kittleson, prelate; H. D. Chenoworth, master of work; Leonard Clark, master at arms; P. C. Larson, inside guard; G. Beck, outside guard; V. A. Malmrose, keeper of records and

seal and master of exchequer; M. Clark, master of finance. The trustees are, McShean, Gibbs and Card.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

This is one of the modern-day beneficiary orders which provides a safe life insurance and also a social feature that has made it very popular among the masses of prudent, thoughtful citizens of this part of Minnesota, as well as in almost every part of the country.

At Madelia the Hackberry Camp, No. 1326, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on March 12, 1891. Among the charter members were the following: A. J. Framback, E. A. Young, J. McCarthy, S. Larson, E. H. Barnes, C. N. Kjorlang, J. L. Vernon, C. O. Cooley, W. A. Foss, John E. Sundt.

The first elective officers were: A. J. Framback, vice-consul; E. A. Young, clerk; J. McCarthy, sentry; S. Larson, E. H. Barnes, C. N. Kjorlang, managers; J. L. Vernon, escort; C. O. Cooley, local physician; W. A. Foss, excellent banker; John E. Sundt, watchman. The chief present officers of the camp are: W. E. Glasgow, consul; L. S. Colebank, advisor; H. C. Gunderson, clerk. The total membership is now one hundred and ninety-eight.

Camp No. 2882, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized at Butterfield, April 18, 1895, by the following men: G. S. Langland, R. A. Bronson, S. J. Sulem, O. C. Penner, Martin Madson, Albert Ulvested, Abraham Siemens.

The first elective officers were as follow: Vice-consul, G. S. Langland; worthy advisor, R. A. Bronson; escort, O. C. Penner; watchman, Martin Madson; sentry, Albert Ulvested; physician, Abraham Siemens. The present elective officers are: Vice-consul, D. E. Raney; clerk, J. O. Ness; banker, J. Brogger; worthy advisor, F. Finck.

Sylvan Camp No. 1538, Modern Woodmen of America, was founded in St. James, September 15, 1897, the charter members being the following: J. J. Thornton, J. J. Shultz, W. H. Rowe, Charles Meyers, E. J. Lynch, A. J. Knorr, L. P. Johnston, Frank Hunter, R. B. Hall, G. W. Hiles, Kendall Greene, C. H. Englebrecht, W. S. Crowley, Ashley Coffman, P. O. Berg, B. Bertramson and C. H. Beaulieu. This order is one of the strongest in the city, as is shown by the fact that among its members are some of the most important business men of the town and community. The present membership is one hundred and fifty-two.

The present officers are as follow: Venerable consul, Andrew Nelson; worthy advocate, Frank Thompson; clerk, E. C. Veltum; banker, M. Clark.

Camp No. 4420, Bingham Lake, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on December 19, 1896, with twenty charter members, as follow: John C. Wilson, Frank E. Wilson, Walter Williams, George W. Warner, Daniel Siemens, William Schultz, Peter H. Rupp, W. L. Jackson, M. H. Lynch, L. P. Hyde, D. J. Goertzen, John J. Goertzen, A. W. Ewert, John P. Dickman, Adam Cogley, Charles Cogley, William Bailey, George Burnette, Earnest Balsukote.

The present total membership is fifty-three. The first elective officers were: John C. Wilson, consul; W. L. Jackson, clerk; John J. Goertzen, banker; A. W. Ewert, escort.

The 1916 officers are as follow: John H. Sheriff, venerable consul; L. P. Hyde, worthy advisor; John Kelley, banker; Fred L. Langley, clerk; John J. Goertzen, escort. The camp meets in Holt & Wicklund's hall.

There is also a camp of this order at Odin, report of which is not at hand for the compiler's use.

Lewisville Camp No. 7874, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized October 19, 1909, by Deputy E. P. Powers, and the following were charter members: Roy L. Barrickman, John F. Chard, E. Cheney, Charles M. Davis, Archibald F. Dewar, George Gove, Edward J. Gronewald, Benjamin G. Doell, Charles S. Handy, H. M. Haycroft, D. McRae, Lee Marsden, E. G. Pond, William F. Thomas, Earl F. Kelly, J. J. Walsh. The membership in 1916 was twelve. A hall was built in 1910, costing a thousand dollars. The present elective officers are: George Gove, consul; F. J. Chard, banker; John F. Chard, clerk; C. M. Davis, advocate; George Davis, escort; Will Gove, watchman; H. McRae, sentinel; Dr. W. J. McCarthy, physician; George Gove, Richard Lewis and C. M. Davis, managers.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS.

This is the ladies' degree of the Woodmen and is a flourishing order. The second camp organized in Minnesota was the one at Madelia, this county. Its present name and number is Buttercup Camp No. 63, organized May 11, 1894, by Mrs. Watt. Its charter members were as follow: Lizzie Young, Hattie Pomeroy, Florence Stubbs, Edward Stubbs, Belle Sharbach, K. Murbeck, H. Murbeck, Emma Kjolrlong, Tilla Anderson, Florence Cone, Mary Hammond, Tena Christensen, A. A. Driggees, John Matland, L. M.

Pomeroy, Olive Driggers, Emma Mathers, Bessie Johnson, J. E. Johnson, Sarah Haycraft, Eva McMakin, Eva Randall, Matilda McCurdy.

The total number of members is now sixty-three. The only other lodge of this order in this county is the one at St. James.

The original officers of this camp were as follow: Lizzie Young, Emma Kjourlong, Belle Sharback, Matilda McCurdy. The 1916 officers serving this camp are: Julia Wellock, Roanaan Smith, Minnie Sorensen, Rachel Salone, Fannie Smith, Hilda St. Peter, Ida Miller.

The Holly Lodge No. 914, Royal Neighbors, was founded in St. James, March 23, 1898, with the following charter members: Gustie M. Paine, Selma M. Finseth, Belle Hoshied, Mary L. Schwingler, Ida M. Morris, Mary Hintgen, Mary C. Miller, Alice B. Hiles, Dora Griffeth, Belle Vronnan, Ruth Hill, Harriett Thornton, Ida Hyatt, Ida Wensrum, Olive Bradford, Addie Hyatt, Caroline G. Griswald, Wiley Paine, O. G. Finseth, William Hoshied, T. B. Larnich, J. L. Griffeth, G. Morris, Edward Lynch, W. H. Rowe, Charles Ekstedt, Robert Bunne.

MODERN BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA.

Madelia Lodge No. 266, at Madelia, of this order, was organized on March 24, 1898, by F. A. Jacobs. It now has a membership of fifty-five, and it is the only other point in Watonwan county, aside from St. James, where the work of this fraternity is represented. The present secretary and treasurer is O. A. Crosby.

Chapter No. 2202, Modern Brotherhood of America, was organized at LaSalle by W. E. Aldrich in 1908. The following is a list of the charter members: Ole A. Brown, Ole E. Sundt, John J. Bjoin, C. H. Halverson, George O. Lee, Ingleborg Nyhus, Chester J. Olson, Ole E. Sletta, W. C. Thompson, Peter Jacobson, A. A. Halverson, Albert Thunderwald, Edward J. Sanderson, A. E. Sundt, G. M. Olson, Carl Markeson, Ole A. Halvarson, Winnie A. Halvarson.

The first elective officers were the following: President, E. J. Sanderson; vice-president, Wilton Streat; secretary, O. E. Sundt; treasurer, William C. Thompson; chaplain, Mrs. O. A. Spain; conductor, Peter Jacobson. The present officers are as follow: President, O. E. Sletta; vice-president, O. A. Halverson; secretary, O. E. Sundt; treasurer, George O. Lee; chaplain, Alfred Sletta; conductor, George Jacobson. The order holds its meetings in the building erected by the LaSalle band.

Bradford Lodge No. 361, Modern Brotherhood of America, was or-

ganized on August 30, 1898, in St. James. The following is a list of the charter members: George A. Bradford, Fred G. Hyatt, William C. Huff, Jacob Bergaman, John G. Bieman, J. N. Pefier, R. Olsen, J. M. Forsyth, J. L. Lobben, A. C. Hopkins, Charles L. Paul, J. E. Crouch, H. E. Zimmermerson, William D. Forsyth, Frank Goodwin, Herman A. Karnopp and George Zellers.

The Odin Lodge No. 2,132, Modern Brotherhood of America, was organized on December 21, 1910, with the following charter members: Amanda Berdell, Henry G. Fossum, Emma Jensen, Clara Kabrick, Thors-ten P. Laingen, Palmer K. Laingen, Tina Olson, Minnie E. Petters, Henry N. Olson, Lena C. Carlson, Palmer T. Laingen, Sophie C. Olson, Hilma Berdell, Walter L. Curtis, Alva A. Harris, John E. Jensen, Hannah M. Larsen, Julia T. Laingen, Fred Malmberg, Guilford C. Petters, Frank A. Rice, Carl D. Carlson, Edward W. Thompson, Elma T. Laingen and Lewis Olson. The lodge has recently become inactive and the membership has been moved to another chapter.

BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY TRAINMEN.

This order is represented at St. James, a division point on the Omaha system, between Minneapolis and Sioux City, by Lodge No. 384. It was organized on June 27, 1897, by W. G. Lee. The charter members were as follow: H. M. Cooper, W. E. Darlow, F. T. Desmond, A. Grigsby, A. W. Haversack, S. G. Land, E. M. Osborne, A. H. Rice, F. Rodrignes, A. D. Reed, W. H. Taylor and J. B. Wellmans.

The membership of the lodge on June 1, 1916, was eighty. This order is purely a railroad fraternity and is doing much good in its line of work among railway men. The first officers elected in this lodge in St. James were as follow: A. W. Haversack, master; H. M. Cooper, vice-master; F. T. Desmond, secretary; T. W. Edwards, financier; A. H. Rice, journal agent. The men serving as officials in the summer of 1916 were: E. H. Keegan, president; N. Leverich, vice-president; F. A. Hottinger, secretary; R. H. Chapman, treasurer; L. M. Berg, agent for official publication; E. H. Keegan, legislative representative; D. G. Duryea, R. H. Chapman and E. H. Hydal, commissioners.

CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS.

There are two courts of this order in Watonwan county—one at Madelia and one at the city of St. James. The latter is known as St. James Court No. 971, and it was organized on November 12, 1899. Its charter members were as follow: John Bruner, Gerard E. Heintz, Fred H. Klaras, Nichols Klaras, Anthony Guehl, Frank Steinbach, Anton Keim, Aug Engleman, John Jacoby, Joseph Soitzner, John A. Posch, Vengek Klein, J. J. Zender, Anton Bauer, George Klein, John Hoschied, John W. Hintgen, J. N. Baker, Peter Steinbach. The present total membership is sixty. They own a frame hall, costing eight hundred dollars.

The officers of this court in 1916 were as follow: J. G. Sullivan, chief ranger; E. G. Wernerskirchen, vice-ranger; Fred H. Klaras, past ranger; N. L. Zender, deputy high ranger; Rev. John Meyers, spiritual director; C. E. Leonard, recording secretary; C. A. Kelly, financial secretary; J. J. Zender, treasurer; A. Guehl, A. J. Engleman and J. J. Gross, trustees; N. L. Zender, senior conductor; A. J. Schmidt, junior conductor; J. D. Gross, inside sentinel; A. P. Klaras, outside sentinel; Dr. W. H. Rowe, medical examiner.

An auxiliary of this court is the Ladies' Court of Honor, now a new fraternity of St. James.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

After the close of the Civil War, in almost every town and city in the Northern states, there were posts of the Grand Army of the Republic organized by the veterans of that never-to-be-forgotten struggle. This county had one at Madelia and at St. James.

At St. James this order is represented by John A. Logan Post No. 64. The first commander was J. P. Schultz, and the first adjutant was M. E. Mullen. E. Z. Rasey, still serving, has been commander of this post for twenty-four years. The charter members were as follow: M. E. Mullen, J. P. Schutz, R. W. Holland, G. H. Herrick, J. L. Jones, A. K. Peck, H. H. Higgins, John Delaughter, E. H. Heller, W. J. Kelly, William S. Adsmund, John E. Lyons, Robert Wowland, U. H. Palmer, Frank Queen, Rasmus Danielson, Knud Knudsen, W. R. Keenig. In June, 1916, only two of the original post membership were surviving—Knud Knudsen and U. H. Palmer. Of the seven left in this post, which has had fifty-seven soldiers enrolled at one time or another, the last one enrolled was Walter

J. Mallet, who was a witness in Washington, D. C., at the military trial and execution of this despicable character, the keeper of Andersonville prison, Wirz, who was found guilty and hung in the city prison at Washington. Comrade Mallet, of the St. James Post, relates how he was ordered to Washington as a witness and was asked to pick out the right man among dozens in the jail at the national capital city prison at that time. He went along through the passage ways of the dingy prison until finally he saw the man Wirz. He called him by name and was asked by Wirz what he was there for. He replied, "To swear against you." Then said Wirz, "I will go to hell sure," and Mallet replied, "I think you will." Mallet was of the Seventh Illinois Regiment. On the same gallows that Wirz was justly hung, also was executed the assassin of President James A. Garfield, in 1882.

The present officers of John A. Logan Post at St. James are: E. Z. Rasey, commander; John Coleman, senior vice-commander; Clinton Ellsworth, adjutant; U. H. Palmer, quartermaster and surgeon; Ed. Hewitt, officer of the day and officer of guard; Knud Knudson, chaplain.

In connection with this post is the Woman's Relief Corps, which now has a membership of sixteen, but has been for many years the life of the post. Its president is now Mrs. Ella Palmer, and the worthy secretary is Mrs. Helen A. Rasey.

CHAPTER XV.

RAILROADS OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

The present generation of men and women living in Minnesota know nothing, save by hearsay, concerning what it meant to live out on a broad, undeveloped prairie country before the days of railroads and easy transportation and communication by phone and rural mail service. It was the pioneer, the early pre-emptor and early homesteader in southern Minnesota who knew of the hardships endured on account of being in advance of the iron horse and his steel roadway, on which freight and passenger trains go flying hither and thither over the broad domain of this and adjoining states, to either of the far-off seaboard. Our meat and grain now go trundling along night and day to New York and Boston markets, feeding tens of thousands of Yankees down by the Atlantic, while the orange and lemon growers of the Pacific coast send their full trains loaded with the golden fruitage of that sunny land of flowers, right to our very doors. Times have materially changed since the sixties and seventies, when the residents of Cottonwood and Watonwan counties were compelled to draw grain to Mankato and St. Peter, and at times to St. Paul, in order to realize money with which to pay taxes and purchase household necessities. Now the "fast freights" halt at St. James long enough to take on a supply of ice for refrigerating purposes, and then speed on to distant city markets and in return bring back coal, lumber and a thousand and one things. Poultry and butter are all shipped by a new method and the products of farm and dairy are landed in the eastern cities as cool and fresh as when they were killed out in the stations within this county.

Railroads (nothing else) came here by chance. It took pioneer heads and hands to project and construct these great highways that now have come to grid-iron our continent. Then the pioneer went ahead and prepared the way and made the demand for the building of a railroad, but these times the railroad companies rush on ahead of settlements and prepare the way for the comfortable advent of the settler and his family.

Farmers in all parts of the United States are seeking lands at a price which will enable them to provide for their sons and daughters, and at the same time represent a livelihood for them. At the present time farm lands are being held in various states at a price which precludes the possibility of the average farmer to own a vine or fig tree.

St. James is only thirty-three miles north of the Iowa line. While the topographical features of the county are much the same as in other counties of southern Minnesota, it is a matter of common concession that Watonwan county, even though its land values range only from sixty-five to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, is one of the most productive of farm lands to be found anywhere in the universe. It is endowed with an abundance of lakes and small streams and with an atmosphere that is comparable with any in the country.

Many counties in the state boast of their richness and the fertility of their soil, but it has remained for Watonwan county to produce a rich, dark-colored loam soil, varying in depth from two to four feet and resting on a clay subsoil, whose prolificness is incalculable. The area of Watonwan county is four hundred thirty-five and forty-five hundredths square miles, or two hundred seventy-eight thousand six hundred eighty-nine and ninety-two hundredths acres, of which two hundred seventy-seven thousand fifty-one and ninety-two hundredths acres are land, and one thousand six hundred thirty-eight are water. The land surface is divided into a few more than one thousand three hundred farms, at an average value of sixty-five to one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre.

The transportation facilities of Watonwan county are most excellent. Two great railroad systems traverse its confines. The markets of St. Paul, Minneapolis, Winona, Mankato, and other cities, which represent wholesale and commission centers, are easily accessible and this potent fact is merely one of the many which go to account for the success of the farmers of this county.

FIRST RAILROAD HERE.

The first railroad through Watonwan county was what was organized as the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company, and now forms a part of that corporation known as the Chicago & Northwestern Company, this particular line being chartered as the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha. It was built from Crystal Lake to St. James in the autumn of 1870 and reached the latter place in November of that year. This brought the people of the county in touch with the outer world and gave a great boom to this part of the commonwealth. With its division point at the county seat, St. James, many advantages have arisen as a direct result. The following year, 1871, the road was pushed through to Sioux City and later to Omaha and Kansas City, by direct rail connections. It is true the railroad arrived prior to the hard winters and the terrible grasshopper years which were be-

tween 1873 and 1878; otherwise, the homesteader would have certainly perished for want of food and fuel, which in many cases had to be shipped here from distant points, where donations and appropriations had wisely been made by public authority.

The railroad just mentioned was the only one that entered this county for a number of years, but finally, when fully settled up, capital seized upon the ripened opportunity of gaining excellent feeders for their far-reaching system of railway, and surveyed and constructed various branches, including the one from Sanborn southeast into Central Iowa, which crosses the main line at the village of Butterfield, with the lesser villages of Darfur and Odin within this county; also the line from Madelia, this county, to Fairmont, Minnesota, with the station of Lewisville in this county. This line crosses the townships of Antrim, Fieldon and a part of Madelia.

THE MINNEAPOLIS & ST. LOUIS.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company, which originally had but one line extending from Fort Dodge, Iowa, to Minneapolis, via Albert Lea route, part of the distance, as the country settled up extended its lines and branches and paying "feeders" into various sections of this and adjoining states. These lines included the one built in 1890 from Minneapolis to Spencer, Iowa, via St. James, Minnesota, thus giving this county a second system. This company has recently absorbed the old Iowa Central railroad and various other lines. This road traverses the townships of Riverdale, Rosendale, St. James, and Long Lake townships of Watonwan county, with station points at LaSalle, St. James, Echols and Ormsby, from which point it enters Martin county. This affords the people of this county a second and competing line to the Twin Cities and the Great Lake region of the northeast; also to the southeast, from where coal, tile and various commodities required here, are shipped to points in this county. The passenger and freight business of this county is now excellent, having, in round numbers, a mileage of about ninety miles in main trackage.

ADVANTAGES TO ST. JAMES.

It was indeed a fortunate thing for St. James in 1871, when the division of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha road was moved here from Mankato. Like many of the good things in life, the people in St. James hardly appreciate the value of this enterprise or realize how much it means to them. They were happy when it came, yet it is a much larger concern now and it is well that they should ponder over the details of this

institution which plays such an important part in making St. James one of the most substantial of the smaller cities of Minnesota.

To begin with, the Minnesota and Iowa division traffic, both passenger and freight, is one of the heaviest in the northwest. During the last fifteen years an enormous sum of money has been expended on the roadbed, making it far superior to most western roads, and the equipment and service make the less fortunate neighbors on nearby lines quite envious. St. James being a division point, all trains stop, thus giving the people advantage of excellent train service. The great volume of business done on this line has a direct effect upon the welfare of the city, for it is from here that business is handled. Besides T. R. Welch, division superintendent, and his assistant and a large office force, there is a battery of six dispatchers. The fine two-story brick office building, surrounded by beautiful grounds, is the scene of great activity all hours of the day and night throughout the year.

The old round house stood where the general office building is today. With the increase of business and traffic, the structure became inadequate. These circumstances resulted in the building of the present round house in the summer of 1890. This structure has twenty-five stalls and is as completely equipped as any division point on the system.

In the average town in a strictly agricultural region there are times during the year when cash trade is small. The large amount of dairy farming around St. James circulates considerable cash during the dull seasons, but it remains for the Omaha pay-roll to make things hum the whole year around. There is paid out by the Omaha road at St. James an average monthly pay-roll of over seven thousand dollars. There are employed in the train service on this division an average of three hundred and in the engine service an average of two hundred and fifty. About forty men are employed in the round house.

As an index of the rapid growth of the business of this division, the numerous increases in the capacity of the company ice house is here given.

The capacity when first built was five hundred tons; enlarged in 1893 to one thousand five hundred tons; in 1900 to two thousand tons; in 1905 to two thousand five hundred tons; in 1906 to three thousand tons and in 1910 the number of tons had been increased to eight thousand four hundred. This plant is a model of its kind and is one of the largest in the country. Not only are refrigerator cars iced, but day coaches, Pullman and buffet cars are cared for.

While the object of this article is to call attention to one of the strong

points of this thriving substantial city, there is something regarding the local railroad situation that is worthy of mention. There was a time when railroad centers were referred to as "railroad towns" and that term in the early days, carried with it the idea of a rough town. This may still be the case out West, but St. James is known as a quiet, orderly city, noted for its excellent school system and as an ideal place for bringing up children. Not only those of local employees connected with the management of the Minnesota and Iowa division, but those in the train service are among our most honored and respected citizens.

Considerable has been said of the Omaha road, but the city is very fortunate in having the Minneapolis & St. Louis, thus giving the people another line to the Twin Cities and connecting with their Watertown branch at Winthrop and going south into Iowa. There is a branch of the Omaha running south in this county from Madelia, ten miles east of here, and the Northwestern crossing the Omaha at Butterfield, eight miles west, cuts the county north and south. Thus it will be seen that St. James has a train service and connections which make it a center of a large and rich territory. On account of this it is an ideal point for many lines of industry and is the home of a number of commercial travellers.

FIRST TRAIN ON THE MINNEAPOLIS & ST. LOUIS.

Comparatively few of the citizens of St. James realize that Friday, December 1, 1899, was a day which is destined to go down into history hand in hand with their prosperous little city. On that morning there steamed into town from the north the first train on the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad. The men having it in charge were Conductor Frank Jones, Engineer Worth and Fireman William Young. It was a construction train, to be sure, but nevertheless a train, no matter what construction is put upon it. It was about eleven o'clock in the morning when it pulled in and stopped. In two minutes it was off south through the town, but not before the enterprising artists, Hoffman & Richardson, had taken a fine snapshot of it. Among the men of note who stood without the range of the camera and smiled as they watched the smoke rise and curl away in ringlets, was M. K. Armstrong, Acting Trainmaster George Beatty, an old and trusted employee of the road; McCabe & Steen, contractors, with Superintendent Frank Kyte, Foreman Pratt, of the tracklaying gang, and last but by no means least, John Mills, engineer of tracks.

CHAPTER XVI.

MILITARY HISTORY.

It will be remembered that Watonwan county was not well settled when the Civil War broke out in April, 1861,—in fact, the settlement was just commenced in and about the village and the then county seat. For this reason the part that Watonwan county men took in the war was necessarily not large. But while there were a few who enlisted and were credited to other counties in the state of Minnesota, it does not boast of its part in that war that forever set the old doctrine of states rights at naught, in so far as it related to the holding of slaves in this country.

Minnesota furnished many thousands of loyal, brave men for the war, and when it was finally over tens of thousands of the boys who wore the loyal blue, immigrated from some one of the Eastern states to this state, and this included a goodly number of men who became first and permanent settlers in the various townships of Watonwan county.

The county records show the names of many veterans of that war, who claimed and secured their homestead and other land rights in this county, by reason of their service in the war. No township can be named in this county that does not have citizens residing there who did not see their share of fighting in the Southland between 1861 and 1865. It was this class of men who braved the bullets of the erring ones of the South; who here faced the storms of many a hard winter; suffered by reason of dry weather and grasshopper scourges, but who finally redeemed the county from many blighting scourges, and have lived the remainder of their days in comparative ease. The ranks of the Civil War soldiers, however, are being rapidly depleted and ere long none will remain among us as a reminder of those sturdy, loyal characters who aided in putting down the rebellion. The "copper-button" of the Grand Army of the Republic is now only seen here and there, as most of the soldiers have passed to the beyond.

In 1864 the records show that the county commissioners of Watonwan county voted to allow one hundred and fifty dollars bounty to any man who should enlist from the county, in order to avoid a draft. Other aid

was rendered by the citizens, through the board of county commissioners, all going to show the spirit of loyalty that then obtained.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

For hundreds of years Spain had ruled in tyranny over Cuba and in April, 1898, when the "Maine" gun-boat belonging to the United States, was sunk in Havana harbor, as believed, by the Spanish, and war was declared on that nation, it was no trouble to secure recruits and volunteers to quickly fill up the ranks needed to carry forward the war with that country, which, in a few months, finally resulted in the sinking of almost the entire Spanish fleet and also in freeing the neighboring island of Cuba, at our south, after three hundred years of bondage in which Spain had held the people of that island.

A military company, known as Company H, of St. James, was one of the companies making up the Second Regiment, National Guard, of which William Denny was captain; Peter S. Lobben, first lieutenant, and A. Running, second lieutenant. This company was organized on March 4, 1898, and formed an honorable part of the Twelfth Minnesota Regiment, mustered for Spanish-American service, and which left for Chickamauga, May 6, of that year. When the company went South, under orders of President William McKinley, they had officers as follow: G. N. Griswold, captain; C. R. Henton, first lieutenant; William Denny, second lieutenant. Griswold resigned on June 20, 1898; Lieutenant Henton commanded until July 20; Perrin L. Smith was elected captain on July 19; William Denny was transferred to Company C, October 6, as first lieutenant; Fred Straub became second lieutenant on October 6. The company was mustered out at New Ulm, Minnesota, with its regiment, November 5, 1898.

CHAPTER XVII.

AGRICULTURE, STOCK-RAISING, ETC.

Watsonwan is purely an agricultural district; here "corn is king," and small grains and stock-raising, with dairying next in importance. The early settlers did not suppose that this was a corn country, hence devoted all of their energy to raising wheat, oats, barley and flax, and this in the very nature of things was of a lasting benefit, as the tough prairie sod had first to be pulverized by constant and annual cultivation, before the production of corn would have been a great success; but as the farmer saw the price of grains kept low and no signs of ever making much money out of the laborious work of raising grain, they commenced to experiment in seed corn and after years of trying, succeeded in producing a very early and hardy variety of corn which now grows as well here as in Iowa, which is one of the leading corn states in the Union. The same conditions obtained in northern Iowa for a decade or more after that section of the West was settled. The soil here is ideal for corn growing and with the proper variety of seed the crop seldom fails. Then the soil is very suitable for dairying, there being much low, moist land, where all kinds of common grasses grow luxuriantly. Many have come to believe, in more recent years, that with the modern system of creamery and butter-making facilities, this whole country will ere long be one vast dairy region. The pastures of the county are now covered with cows, whose milk is fast paying off the debts that stood against the farms of the county a few years ago.

There are now paying creameries at various points, including those located at Butterfield, St. James, Odin, Darfur, the Nelson and Albin creamery, the Long Lake creamery, the Sveadahl creamery, the South Branch creamery, and others. In 1913 the county had eight creameries, the output of which was one million and a quarter pounds of butter; also, one cheese factory with an output of one hundred and twenty-seven thousand pounds of cheese. The live stock of the county in 1913 was as follow: Horses, 8,433; cattle, 20,459; sheep, 1,754; swine, 13,599.

There are numerous large stock farms here and fancy stock is raised. Hundreds of cars of fat cattle and other stock are shipped annually from

the markets of Watonwan county. Nearly all the farmers own an orchard for the production of apples, as well as berries, which yield a splendid crop.

Nearly every farm home in this county is supplied with United States rural free delivery of mail and parcels, daily, and long-distance telephones, which, together with the excellent transportation facilities to the markets of the Twin Cities, Winona and Mankato, make an ideal home for the agriculturist.

STOCK-RAISING METHODS IMPROVED.

Complete success at farming and stock-raising in this county did not crown the efforts of the Watonwan husbandmen until they had first learned the lesson of corn growing and breeding fancy stock, coupled with the kindred industry of butter-making and the sale of cream. For many years after this county had been settled the cattle were of a poor grade, and after getting half their growth were sold to stockmen from Iowa, who drove large herds annually from southern Minnesota to Iowa, where they were fattened and enriched the men who brought them from this state. But, later, through the foresight of such men as the late M. K. Armstrong and a score more men, better grades of stock were imported and since then none but the best will satisfy the farmer here. The horses also have been bred up till the horse buyers of today say this county produces almost as good a grade of horses as does that fine horse-breeding section of Brown county on the north, whose German population have a name at home and abroad for raising the best horses in Minnesota.

As this county is being drained, the land is becoming better adapted to successful farming and stock-raising, and the rural scene of today, splendid as it is to the eye of the passerby, is only a faint shadow of what the real county will be in the near future.

The farmer who used to be known only as the "homesteader," the "grasshopper sufferer," and had to be materially aided by the outside world, has now come to be in good circumstances and supports his automobile, telephone connection, has his daily paper and educates his children in the high schools of the county and at the State University. Pioneering is always hard on every member of the family, but this was especially true in this part of the state, before railroad days and before the soil had been subdued. Those who remained faithful to the trust imposed upon them as fathers and mothers in this county have lived to see their families well educated and holding places of importance in the busy world.

FARM NAMES.

Through a provision of the law enacted a few years since, landowners within the state of Minnesota may select a name for their improved farm land (not already taken by another and so recorded with the register of deeds), by the payment of a fee of from fifty cents to one dollar. This was a wise provision, and has been in vogue many years in other countries. The farm name—no matter how many times the land changes owners—always has an individuality that otherwise it could not have. But in Watonwan county not many farmers have taken advantage of this provision of the Legislature, as the record book only presents the names of sixteen farms, and they are as follow:

No. 1—June 25, 1909, "East Bank Farm," in section 12, township 106, range 31 west, by J. C. Jensen.

No. 2—October 16, 1909, "Oak Dale Stock Farm," in section 15, township 105, range 32 west, by Otto M. Howe.

No. 3—"Brook Side Stock Farm," December 20, 1910, in section 33 and section 34, by D. O'Keefe.

No. 4—October 21, 1911, "Brook Valley," in section 20, township 107, range 32 west, by John A. Sjorquist.

No. 5—May 6, 1912, "Northwood Farm," by Nels Nelson, in section 24, township 105, range 32 west.

No. 6—June 15, 1912, "Fertile Valley Farm," in section 16, township 105, range 32 west, by Mangus Ronsdahl.

No. 7—"Elmwood Farm," August 31, 1912, in sections 19 and 30, township 105, range 31 west, by Soren Cook.

No. 8—April 16, 1914, "City View Farm," in section 18, township 106, range 31 west, by W. G. Manning and Francis T. Desmond.

No. 9—"Cloverdale Farm," August 10, 1915, in section 9, township 106, range 32 west, by R. E. Hagen.

No. 10—"Sunnyside Farm," September 8, 1915, in sections 20 and 29, township 107, range 33 west, by Albert A. Uhlhorn.

No. 11—"Park Dale Farm," September 27, 1915, in section 2, township 106, range 31 west, by Hans A. Haygen.

No. 12—October 8, 1915, "East View Farm," in sections 20, 29 and 30, township 106, range 32, by N. L. Zender.

No. 13—"Clover Leaf Farm," January 8, 1916, in section 7, township 107, range 33 west, by Oscar Wallin.

No. 14—March 28, 1916, "Cloverdell Farm," in section 20, and section 21, township 105, range 30 west, by William F. Poppe.

No. 15—"Fairview Stock Farm," March 29, 1916, in section 18, township 106, range 32 west, by Henry J. Meyer.

No. 16—"Hage," April 6, 1916, by Siver Hage in section 2, township 107, range 30.

THE GREAT ELGIN COLONY.

Among the greatest single colonies that ever came to this county was the one induced to settle here by Mr. Voss. Many of these Illinois farmers purchased lands at ten dollars an acre and sowed the raw breaking to flax, and so great was the yield for a number of seasons that many paid for their land from the proceeds of one year's crop of flax. Besides this the land was thoroughly subdued, suitable for the easy cultivation of other crops, including corn. After a few crops of flax, it was found that this plant was a detriment to the soil and its growth was lessened until none was sown. This colony furnished many thrifty agriculturists in the vicinity of St. James.

COUNTY FAIR SOCIETIES, ETC.

Here, as has been the case in many of the counties in Minnesota the keeping up a successful county annual fair for the exhibit of farm, live stock and fruits produced in the county, has been no small task. The earliest society went down about the date of the Indian massacre in 1862 and was not reorganized for a number of years. It is profitless to the reader to trace the coming and falling by the wayside of all of these societies, but it may be briefly stated that in 1890 the business men of St. James started a monthly "stock sale," which was highly successful and pleased the farmers very much.

In November, 1891, the Watonwan County Board of Trade decided to organize a regular county fair, again. On February 26, 1892, they met and elected the following officers: H. W. Wadsworth, president; the township vice-presidents were, David Sharp, South Branch; P. H. Grogan, Riverdale; C. M. Malmrose, Nelson; W. W. Gibbs, Rosendale; Gilbert Swensen, Long Lake; E. Z. Rasey, St. James; James McDonaugh, Adrian; J. D. McBroom, Butterfield; A. A. Nass, Odin; Thomas Veltum, St. James village; John Hammond, Antrim. A constitution was prepared, read and adopted, and the name given the society was the "Watonwan County Agricultural Society."

Several successful fairs were held under the auspices of this society, but interest was not kept up. A meeting was called and other men desired to organize a stock company and purchase the old fair grounds. This meeting was held in 1910. In February, 1913, a new or really a re-organized society was formed and stock was placed at five dollars per share. The last officers of the old association became the first officers in the newly formed society. C. T. Crowley, E. A. Gibbs, Rev. Knowlton and C. E. Fuller were made a committee to prepare and submit plans for the grounds and buildings.

Thus the old fair grounds went from the hands of a county agricultural society of the old type into the hands of a stock company, which incorporation made the present improvements on the grounds, which are just to the southeast of the city. The half-mile track, amphitheatre, judges' stand, the long rows of stock pens and other improvements, make it a permanent and desirable property. The buildings, for the most part, are covered with metal sheeting.

The present officers of the association are: Oliver C. Peterson, president; E. Corliss, vice-president; Thomas Offerdahl, secretary; Milton Hammond, treasurer. There is a board of directors made up of the stockholders, scattered throughout the county. Shares are now ten dollars each and there are about seventy-five at this date.

The grounds comprise about twenty acres, which was bought from W. W. Gibbs at one hundred dollars an acre in 1905. It contains two good wells, and all the improvements before mentioned, all of which have cost more than five thousand dollars. Electric lights make all beautiful at night, and every township in the county now makes a special effort to attend the annual fair, bringing with them the finest of stock, grain and fruits the county can produce. In the year 1915, the association paid out for premiums \$1,082; for races, \$920; for amusements, \$875, a total of \$2,877. They now have an indebtedness of \$1,722.27.

The Farmers Clubs are doing much toward exciting interest in the enterprise, as are also the rural school districts, which under the county school superintendent, have collected six hundred dollars and to this has been added two hundred more for a school exhibition building.

AN EARLY HORSE AND CATTLE FAIR.

At a meeting held in the village of St. James early in July, 1875, by its enterprising citizens, it was decided that a monthly horse and cattle fair

should be held in that village on the third Saturday of each month, commencing with September 18. The farmers and citizens saw the need of choosing a certain day when they could go and sell, buy or trade and where the butchers could also be accommodated. The first fair was a sort of an experiment, but was so much of a success that others followed. At the first fair seven yoke of oxen, several cows and a great many young cattle were sold, amounting to nearly one thousand five hundred dollars. As the country settled up, and markets changed in the community this fair was done away with.

THE CREAMERIES OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

Of recent years the flat lands of this county have been profitably utilized for pasture purposes and the amount of butter made has been remarkable. The farmers have found that their debts could be paid off and a nice bank account started through keeping as many cows as possible.

A report of the Sveadahl Cream Company, published in February, 1911, shows that during the year ending in that month, this creamery had produced one hundred and five thousand pounds of butter and received for the same thirty-two thousand two hundred and twenty-two dollars. They had paid out for butter-fat twenty-eight thousand five hundred dollars. The expenses, including salaries, amounted to twenty-five hundred and fifty dollars. They had on hand, in the sinking fund, thirteen hundred dollars. The average price per pound for butter-fat that year, was thirty-one cents; average overrun twenty per cent. Total, three thousand dollars business more than the previous year.

At Madelia the Co-operative Creamery opened up for business in 1890, and in the first season received ninety thousand pounds of milk. In September they sold the latter on track at twenty cents per pound and raised the price of milk to the farmers. This was the first creamery in the county.

There are now eight or ten successful creameries and many cream stations in operation within Watonwan county. In 1903 the State Butter-makers Association convened at St. James.

DAIRY STATISTICS.

The recent state reports show that there are now eight active creameries within this county; that these creameries produced last year nine hundred and sixty-two thousand, five hundred and forty-seven pounds of

butter and that the patrons were paid two hundred and thirty-eight thousand, four hundred and thirty-two dollars therefor.

MADELIA CREAMERY COMPANY.

The Madelia Creamery Company, which was organized on January 1, 1915, are the successors to the Madelia Butter and Cheese Company organized in 1890. The old company held a charter from the state that expired on August 1, 1915. On February 21, 1916, the creamery was sold at public auction, the highest bidders being the present Madelia Creamery Company. The present company is a stock concern, composed of the leading farmers and business men in and around Madelia. The men connected with the organization are as follow: A. U. McLaughlin, president; Clark Penny, vice-president; George E. Gjertson, secretary; Henry Madson, treasurer; George E. Gjertson, John Hermanson, S. A. Peterson, C. L. Sorensen and Clark Penny, directors; C. L. Sorensen, manager. Mr. C. L. Sorensen belongs to a family of butter-makers, he being one of six brothers now in the business. Perhaps no other family in the United States can boast of having as many brothers managing co-operative creameries as the Sorensen family. Another fact that recommends them to their many patrons is that no one of them has ever failed. Therefore, there is a very logical reason why the Madelia Creamery Company is among the leaders in the creamery business of the county. Their patrons are always satisfied and their prosperity never questioned.

During May, 1916, the company had about two hundred patrons, whose checks for that month amounted to a total of four thousand seven hundred and two dollars and ninety-nine cents. The amount of business done by the company amounted to five thousand dollars. Their principal market is in Brooklyn, New York. The farmers are careful to deliver their cream on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, for which they receive three cents above the regular price of butter-fat. They may get their checks whenever needed, but regular payment is made at the end of every month.

The company is perhaps the most completely equipped of any concern of its kind in the county. It has a capacity of thirty thousand pounds of butter-fat per month, and is equipped with all the latest machinery, at a cost of three thousand dollars. A brick building erected especially for the purpose, was constructed in 1902 at a cost of five thousand dollars. The plant is equipped with a chemical refrigerator, a four-ton ice plant and a ten-horse-power electric motor.

ST. JAMES CREAMERY ASSOCIATION.

The St. James Creamery Association was organized in 1901 and has had a steady growth ever since. It is the largest institution of its kind in the county, has about two hundred and twenty patrons and a capacity at the present time of thirty thousand pounds of butter-fat per month. The output is marketed in St. James and New York City.

This establishment is a stock concern, composed of a number of the leading farmers and business men of Watonwan county, and represents another industrial enterprise which goes to demonstrate that St. James will ultimately be a manufacturing point of importance on the two trunk lines of railways which girth the city.

This creamery was originally conceived and founded for the purpose of affording an accessible and profitable market for the farmers in this vicinity. How well it has fulfilled its mission and materialized on the financial end and compensated its stockholders, is evidenced by reports and returns which the concern can exhibit. The creamery being under the direction of responsible men interested in the welfare of the county, naturally, as a matter of self-pride as well, produces naught but the acme of purity and wholesomeness.

They have a capacity of large proportions, even though the demands made upon them are as much, if not more, than they are able to satisfy. They have installed the latest machinery; their product is chemically pure, and the public need have no fear of bacteria or bacilli or disease germs when they consume the dairy products turned out by this creamery. The published report of this association in July, 1914, stated that there were then two hundred and thirty patrons, who received twenty-nine cents per pound for the butter-fat for that month and that the same amounted to a total of seven thousand two hundred and twenty-six dollars.

CHAPTER XVIII.

MURDERS AND OUTRAGES COMMITTED IN THE COUNTY.

While it is not the object of this chapter to deal in detail with all of the crimes committed in this county, yet the following cases are thought to be of sufficient importance to give them space in this connection.

Perhaps the most sensational murder trial in the history of Watonwan county was held in the May term of court, 1874, in which Andrew Johnson was charged with the murder of Lais Johnson, of Long Lake township. On May 12 the jury found a verdict of guilty against the accused, whereupon Judge Waite pronounced the sentence of imprisonment in the state penitentiary at hard labor for life.

A brief history of the case is as follows: It appears that the parties, Andrew Johnson, Lais Johnson and wife, were acquainted before coming to this county and the two men were sometimes at variance. They both came to this county and settled near Kansas Lake. Lais's claim was three-fourths of a mile from the lake and Andrew's house three-fourths of a mile from Lais. Their acquaintance was kept up after they settled on their claims. Lais was a small man and not very energetic and the evidence went to show that his wife used to go out and work for the neighbors, especially in the harvest field, when she could get highest wages and generally Lais did not go with her. They had three children at the time. Among those for whom Mrs. Lais Johnson worked was Andrew and on account of some suspicious circumstances Lais became jealous of Andrew. This jealousy soon led to contention between Lais and his wife and he forbade her going out to work. About this time Lais got a gun with the supposed intention of protecting himself. This was in 1872.

There were stories circulating that Lais was insane and it was found that they were mostly started by Andrew. He went to Madelia, with an interpreter, to get an order of the probate judge to send Lais to the asylum and received a summons for that purpose and had Doctor Neill, of St. James, to examine Lais. A short time previous to this Lais and Andrew had a fight at the house of the former and Andrew, being much the larger, gave Lais a beating and badly injured his head. While in this condition

the Doctor had made an examination and decided that Lais was partially insane, but did not order him sent to the asylum. This was in October. On November 8 Lais mysteriously disappeared and his wife said he had gone begging, although at the time he had a comfortable house, with some crops they had raised and some cattle. Suspicions were aroused; Andrew Johnson and Lais's wife were arrested, a preliminary trial held and sufficient evidence produced to prove that Lais had been murdered, but as the body had not been found they could not be indicted and were released. Early in the winter Lais's wife went to live with Andrew (although it was stated that she made application to another family first). The next April Andrew went away and in a few days Lais's wife also. On May 25 the body of Lais was found at Kansas Lake. On his head over the right ear was a large wound, the face badly gashed and the cheek bone broken. His shirt and vest were wrapped about the head and he had on no shoes. The coroner's inquest was held and a verdict reached that he came to his death by the hands of Andrew and Caroline Johnson. In the meantime a letter was received by Andrew's brother from Omaha, signed Jan Jensen, asking how the "land lay." Communication was at once had with officers at Omaha and a person found, answering the description. Upon going to Omaha the sheriff found them living together as man and wife. They were brought back to Madelia, committed to jail and married therein. In the February term of court Andrew was indicted by the grand jury. His lawyer was Hon. M. J. Severance.

FOUR MURDERED IN A FAMILY

Just twenty years ago, at the Goblinski farm in South Branch township, occurred an awful crime by which the father, two sons and a daughter were murdered.

On December 22, 1890, as seen by the files of the *Madelia Times* of about that date, the citizens of the neighborhood were horrified by the report that about the creamery in South Branch township an awful crime had been enacted. The *Times* said: "This report was brought in by P. Gillespie, who had been at the house and just come to town. He saw some of the neighbors there at the house. There was much excitement and it was difficult to ascertain the circumstances. He heard from them that a man named Fred Becker, who had run a thrasher engine for Mr. Goblinski two or three seasons, was living with the family. The father had been to St. James and after his return he and Becker had trouble about the conduct of

his daughter, Anna, with Becker, and reproved her. Thereupon Becker drew a revolver and shot at the man several times, one taking effect, killing him instantly. He shot at August, the eldest son, the daughter and another son. He saw the dead body, but he could get but little of the details of the tragedy.

"Smith Keech, who lives at St. James, came down from there in the afternoon. He and several others had driven out to the scene of the murder that morning. Sheriff Forsyth had been notified and, accompanied by Deputy Bird and Coroner Rowe, had got there a short time previous and were examining the bodies. They found one, that of the murderer, who, after killing the girl, shot himself fatally, and they lay in one room and the father and August, killed while running, lay in another room. Another boy, Carl, who was shot twice and dangerously hurt when going upstairs, had been taken to a neighbor. It was a horrible sight and enough to make one's blood run cold.

"A representative of the *Times* was there Tuesday afternoon. The inquest had been held and the house cleaned up some, but the bodies lay awaiting the arrival of the undertakers. The daughter's body had been placed in the kitchen beside her brother, Charles, who was the one killed, and August hurt. The murderer lay in the front room, where he fell, and the brain had oozed from the wound in the top of his head, where the bullet passed out. He was closely shaved, well dressed and seemed prepared to go away. He had acted somewhat strange, and some even thought him insane. He was about twenty-five years of age, and his name was John Kable. The father was forty-eight, Charles, twenty, Anna, thirteen and August, twenty-two years of age. The affray occurred at about six o'clock in the morning. The mother and two younger boys were out in the barn milking, and did not know of the awful murder until it was all over. No eyewitness of it is alive. August was upstairs. Coming down he was shot when he opened the chamber door, which he closed and went upstairs and jumped out of the window, followed by the youngest brother, who ran to the neighbors and gave the alarm. For a time people were afraid to go into the house till they learned the assassin was dead."

OTHER CRIMES.

In the last week of June, 1916, at the usually quiet and law-abiding village of Madelia, a shooting affray took place between one "Bill" Jones,

commonly called "Sporty Jones," and a horse buyer named Jess Marsh. The two men had returned from New Ulm, where they had been drinking too freely of spirits and trouble ensued. At Madelia at eleven o'clock, Saturday night, June 24, they had a fist encounter in which Jones got the worst of it. On Sunday afternoon following, still under the influence of the liquor's effect, Marsh and a horse buyer were standing beside an automobile, in front of a drug store, when Jones came up the sidewalk from the west. When he saw Marsh he stepped down from the walk and went around the car, as Marsh was standing on the side of the street by the machine. A few words were exchanged and then the report of a revolver was heard, and Leo Jacobson, an innocent bystander, turned and entered the drug store, saying that he was shot. He was soon hurried away to Mankato to the hospital. The shot was evidently intended for Marsh, missed its mark and struck young Jacobson. Jones deliberately picked up the revolver and put it into his pocket and walked to his room. Marshal Jacobson arrested Jones and placed him in jail, but at the time of the arrest the revolver could not be found. Later, it was discovered in Jones's trunk. Marsh was also arrested and held as a witness and placed under five hundred dollars bond. Jones claimed that it was accidental and that Marsh hit the gun with his cane and fired it off. At the hospital it developed that the ball passed through the young man's body, cutting the intestines in ten places.

A SUICIDE.

The last week in June, 1916, the people of South Branch township were horrified at hearing that an attempted murder and suicide had taken place in that township at the home of William Luptke, a respected resident. It appears that a young man named Henry Goblinski had been keeping company with Luptke's daughter, and his attentions had become very distasteful to the girl's father, who ordered the young man off the place. The man Goblinski is about thirty-six years of age. He armed himself and went to Luptke's farm some time Saturday night, and concealed himself in the hay mow of the barn. It was between six and seven o'clock on Sunday morning that the girl's father went to the barn, and as he was climbing up the ladder of the hay-loft, Goblinski opened fire on him. He shot twice, one bullet taking effect in each shoulder and plowing its way through the body downward. Luptke dropped to the floor and then Goblinski turned the gun on himself and sent a bullet through his heart. He died instantly.

VISIT OF NOTORIOUS BANDITS—NORTHFIELD ROBBERY.

In 1876 took place the much-talked-of Northfield bank robbery, at Northfield, Minnesota, the Younger brothers, notorious Missouri bandits, taking the lead in that raid. While Northfield is not in Watonwan county, but in Rice county, there was a connection with this county from the fact that the raiders purchased horses at St. Peter and trained them partly there and partly in Madelia of this county, and Cole Younger, in his autobiography written in 1903, makes considerable mention of himself and others of the raiding band stopping at various places in Watonwan and Cottonwood counties. Much general interest has always been had by the people in this part of Minnesota in this bold daylight bank robbery. Hence the following portions of the narrative concerning it are here inserted, as written by Cole Younger, who served, with others, a term in the penitentiary at Stillwater:

When we split up in St. Paul, Howard, Woods, Jim and Clell Miller were to go to Red Wing to get their horses, while Chadwell, Pitts, Bob and myself were to go to St. Peter or Mankato, but Bob and Chadwell missed the train and they had me in a stew to know what had happened to them. We watched the papers but could find nothing about any arrests, and Pitts and I bought our horses at St. Peter. I was known as King and some of the fellows called me Congressman King, insisting that I bore some resemblance to Congressman William F. King, of Minneapolis. I bought two horses, one from a man named Hodge and the other from a man named French, and while we were breaking them there at St. Peter, I made the acquaintance of a little girl, who was afterwards one of the most earnest workers for our parole. A little tot then, she said she could ride a horse too, and reaching down I lifted her up before me and we rode up and down. I asked her name and she said it was "Horace Greeley Perry," and I replied: "I wonder you're such a little tot with such a great name." "I won't always be little," she replied. "I am going to be a great big girl and be a newspaper man like my pa." [Her father was a St. Peter journalist and a great admirer of Horace Greeley and insisted on naming his daughter after Greeley—hence the masculine name.] "Will you still be my sweetheart then and be my friend?" And she declared she would, a promise I was to remind her of years later under circumstances of which I did not dream then.

Many years afterward, with a party of visitors to the prison, came a girl, perhaps sixteen, who registered in full, "Horace Greeley Perry." I

knew there could not be two women with such a name in the world and I reminded her of her promise, a promise that she did not remember, although she had been told how she had made friends with the bold, bad man, who afterwards robbed the Bank of Northfield.

Very soon afterward, at the age of eighteen, I believe, she became as she had dreamed in childhood, "a newspaper man," editing the *St. Peter Journal*, and to the hour of my pardon she was one of the most indefatigable workers for us.

A few years ago failing health compelled her removal from Minnesota to Idaho and Minnesota lost one of the brightest newspaper writers and one of the best and truest women and staunchest friends that a man ever knew. Jim and I had a host of earnest advocates during the latter years of our imprisonment, but none exceeded in devotion the young woman who as a little tot had ridden unknowingly with the bandit who was so soon to be exiled for life from all his kin and friends.

THE NORTHFIELD RAID.

While Pitts and I were waiting for Bob and Chadwell we scouted about, going to Madelia and as far as the east part of Cottonwood county, to familiarize ourselves with the country. Finally, a few days later, the boys joined us, having bought their horses in Mankato.

We then divided into two parties and started for Northfield by somewhat different routes. On Monday night, September 4, 1876, we were at LeSueur. Center and court being in session there we had to sleep on the floor. The hotel was full of lawyers and they, with the judge and other court attendants had a high old time that night. On Tuesday night we were at Cordova, a little village in LeSueur county, and Wednesday night in Millersburg, eleven miles west of Northfield. Bob and his party were then at Cannon City, to the south of Northfield, west of the Cannon river. We took a trip into town that forenoon and I looked over the bank. We had dinner at various places and then returned to the camp. While we were planning the raid it was intended that I should be one of the party to go into the bank. I urged on the boys that whatever happened we should not shoot anyone.

"What if they begin shooting at us?" one suggested. "Well," said Bob, "if Cap is so particular about shooting, suppose we let him stay outside and let him take his chances." So at the last minute our plans were

changed and when we started for town Bob, Pitts and Howard went in front, the plan being to await us in the square and enter the bank when the second detachment came up with them. Miller and I went second to stand guard at the bank, while the rest of the party was to wait at the bridge for the signal—a pistol shot—in the event they were needed. There were no saddle horses in evidence and we calculated that we would have a considerable advantage. Wrecking the telegraph office as we left, we would get a good start and by night would be safe beyond Shieldsville and the next day could ride south across the Iowa line and be in comparative safety. But between the time we broke camp and the time they reached the bridge, the three men who went ahead drank a quart of whisky and there was the initial blunder at Northfield. I never knew Bob to drink before and I did not know that he was drinking that day till after it was all over.

When Miller and I crossed the bridge the three were on some dry-goods boxes at the corner, near the bank, and as soon as they saw us went right into the bank instead of waiting for us to get there. When we came up I told Miller to shut the bank door which they had left open in their hurry. I dismounted in the street, pretending to tighten a saddle girth. J. S. Allen, whose hardware store was near, tried to go into the bank, but Miller ordered him away and he ran around the corner shouting: "Get your guns, boys, they are robbing the bank." Dr. H. M. Wheeler, who had been standing on the east side of Division street, near the Dammier House, shouted "Robbery, robbery," and I called him to get inside, at the same time firing a pistol shot in the air as a signal for the three boys at the bridge that we had been discovered. Almost at this instant I heard a pistol shot in the bank. Chadwell, Woods and Jim rode up and joined us, shouting to the people in the street to get inside, and fired their pistols to emphasize their commands. I do not believe they killed anyone, however. I have always believed that the man, Nicholas Gustfussen, who was shot in the street, and who it was said did not go inside, because he did not understand English, was hit by a glancing shot from Manning's or Wheeler's rifle. If any of our party shot him it must have been Woods. A man named Elias Stacey, armed with a shotgun, fired at Miller, just as he was mounting his horse, filling Clell's face full of bird shot. Manning took a shot at Pitts' horse, killing it, which crippled us badly. Meantime the street was getting uncomfortably hot. Every time I saw anyone with a bead on me I would drop off my horse and try to drive the shooter inside, but I could not see in every direction. I called to the boys to come out of the

bank, for I could not imagine what was keeping them so long. With his second shot, Manning wounded me in the thigh and with his third he shot Chadwell in the heart. Bill fell from the saddle dead. Doctor Wheeler, who had gone upstairs in the hotel, shot Miller and he lay dying in the street.

At last the boys who had been in the bank came out. Bob ran down the street toward Manning, who hurried into Lea & Hitchcock's store, hoping in that way to get a shot at Bob from behind. Bob, however, did not see Wheeler, who was in the hotel upstairs behind him, and Wheeler's third shot shattered Bob's right elbow as he stood beneath the stairs. Changing his pistol to his left hand Bob ran out and mounted Miller's mare. Howard and Pitts at last came out of the bank. Miller was lying in the street, but we thought him still alive. I told Pitts to put him up with me and I would pack him out, but when we lifted him I saw that he was dead and I told Pitts to lay him down again. Pitts's horse had been killed and I told him that I could hold the crowd back while he got out on foot. I stayed there pointing my pistol at anyone who showed his head until Pitts had gone perhaps thirty or forty yards and then putting spurs to my horse I galloped to where he was and took him up behind me.

"What kept you so long?" I asked Pitts. Then he told me they had been drinking and had made a box of it inside the bank. Instead of carrying out the plan as originally formed of seizing the cashier at his window and getting to the safe without any interruption, they leaped right over the counter and scared Heywood at the very start. As to the rest of the affair inside the bank I take the account of a Northfield narrator:

With the flourish of his revolver one of the robbers pointed to Joseph Heywood, head bookkeeper, who was acting as cashier, in the absence of that official, and asked:

"Are you the cashier?" "No," replied Heywood, and the same question was put to A. E. Bunker, teller, and Frank J. Wilcox, assistant bookkeeper, each of whom made the same reply. "You are the cashier," said the robber, turning upon Heywood, who was sitting at the cashier's desk. "Open that safe—quick or I will blow your head off."

Pitts then ran to the vault and stepped inside, whereupon Heywood followed him and tried to shut him in. One of the robbers seized him and said: "Open that safe now, or you haven't a minute to live." "There is a time lock on," Heywood answered, "and it can't be opened now."

Howard drew a knife from his pocket and made a feint to cut Hey-

wood's throat, as he lay on the floor, where he had been thrown in the scuffle, and Pitts told me afterwards that Howard fired a pistol near Heywood's head to scare him. Bunker tried to get a pistol that lay near him, but Pitts saw his movement and beat him to it. It was found on Charley when he was killed; so much more evidence to identify us as the men who were at Northfield.

"Where is the money outside the safe"? Bob asked. Bunker showed him a box of small change on the counter, and while Bob was putting the money in a grain sack, Bunker took advantage of the opportunity to dash out of the rear window. The shutters were closed, and this caused Bunker an instant delay that was almost fatal. Pitts chased him with a bullet. The first one missed him, but the second went through his right shoulder. As the men left the bank Heywood clambered to his feet and Pitts, in his liquor, shot him through the head, inflicting the wound that killed him.

We had no time to wreck the telegraph office, and the alarm was soon sent throughout the country. Gov. John S. Pillsbury first offered one thousand dollars reward for the arrest of the six who had escaped, and this he changed later to one thousand dollars for each of them, dead or alive. The Northfield Bank offered seven hundred dollars and the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company five hundred dollars.

A CHASE TO THE DEATH.

A little way out of Northfield we met a farmer and borrowed one of his horses for Pitts to ride. We passed Dundas on the run, before the news of the robbery reached there, and at Millersburg, too, we were in advance of the news, but at Shieldsville we were behind it. Here a squad of men, who, we afterward learned, were from Faribault, had left their guns outside a house. We did not permit them to get their weapons until we had watered our horses and got a fresh start. They overtook us about four miles west of Shieldsville and shots were exchanged, without effect on either side. A spent bullet did hit me on the "crazy bone," and as I was leading Bob's horse it caused a little excitement for a minute, but that was all. We were in a strange country. On the prairie our maps were all right, but when we got into the woods and among the lakes we were practically lost. There were a thousand men on our trail, and watching for us at fords and bridges where it was thought we would be apt to go.

That night it started to rain, and we wore out our horses. On Friday we moved toward Waterville, and Friday night we camped between Elysian

and German lake. On Saturday morning we left our horses and started through on foot, hiding that day on an island in a swamp. That night we tramped all night and we spent Sunday about four miles south of Marysburg. Meantime, our pursuers were watching for horsemen, not finding our abandoned horses, it seems, until Monday. We spent Tuesday in a deserted farm-house close to Mankato. That day a man named Dunning discovered us and we took him prisoner. Some of the boys wanted to kill him, on the theory that "dead men tell no tales," while others urged binding him and leaving him in the woods. Finally, we administered to him an oath not to betray our whereabouts until we had time to make our escape, and he agreed not to. No sooner, however, was he released than he made post haste into Mankato to announce our presence, and in a few minutes another posse was looking for us.

Suspecting, however, that he would not do so, we were soon on the move, and that night we evaded the guard at the Blue Earth river bridge, and about midnight made our way through Mankato. The whistle on the oil mill blew and we feared that it was a signal that had been agreed upon to alarm the town in case we were observed, but we were not molested.

Howard and Woods, who had favored killing Dunning, and who felt we were losing valuable time because of Bob's wound, left us that night and went west. As we afterward learned, this was an advantage to us as well as to them, for they stole two horses soon after leaving us and the posse followed the trail of these horses not knowing our party had been divided. Accordingly, we were not pursued, having kept on a course toward Madelia to a farm where I knew there were some good horses, once in possession of which we could get along faster.

RATIONS SCARCE.

We had been living on scant rations, corn, watermelon, and other vegetables principally, but in spite of this Bob's arm was mending somewhat. He had to sleep with it pillowed on my breast, Jim also being crippled with a wound in his shoulder and we could not get much sleep. The wound in my thigh was also troubling me and I had to walk with a cane I had cut in the brush. One place we got a chicken and cooked it, only to be interrupted before we could have our feast, having to make a quick dash for cover. At every stopping place we left marks of blood from our wounds and could have been easily trailed, had not the pursuers been led in the track of our recent companions.

It seems that from what I have read since, however, that I had myself, left with my landlord, Colonel Vought, of the Flanders House, at Madelia, a damaging suggestion which proved the ultimate undoing of our party. I had talked with him about a bridge between two lakes near there, and accordingly when it became known that the robbers had passed Mankato, Vought thought of this bridge and it was guarded by him and others for two nights. When they abandoned the guard, however, he admonished a Norwegian boy named Oscar Suborn to keep close watch there for us and on Thursday morning, September 21, just two weeks after the robbery, Oscar saw us and fled into town with the alarm. A party of forty was soon out in search for us, headed by Capt. W. W. Murphy, Colonel Vought and Sheriff Glispen. They came up with us as we were fording a small slough and unable to ford it with their horses they were delayed somewhat by having to go around it. But they soon after got close enough so that one of them broke my walking stick with a shot. We were in sight of our long-sought horses when they cut us off from the animals and our last hope was gone. We were at bay on the open prairie, surrounded by a picket line of forty men, some of whom would fight. Not prepared to stand for our last fight against such odds on an open field, we fell back into the Watonwan river bottoms and took refuge in some bushes. We were prepared to wait as long as they would, but they were not of the waiting kind, at least some of them were not, and soon we heard the captain, who we later learned was W. W. Murphy, calling for volunteers to go in with him and rout us out. Six stepped to the front, Sheriff Glispen, Col. T. L. Vought, B. M. Rice, G. A. Bradford, C. A. Pomeroy and S. J. Severson. Forming in line, four paces apart, he ordered them to advance rapidly and concentrate the fire of the whole line the instant the robbers were discovered.

AT BAY.

Meanwhile, we were planning, too. "Pitts," I said, "if you want to go out and surrender, go on." "I will not go," he replied, game to the last. "I can die as well as you can." "Make for the horses," I said. "Every man for himself. There is no use to stop to pick up a comrade here, for we can't get him through the line. Just charge them and make it if we can."

I got up as a signal for the charge and we fired one volley. I tried to get my man and started through, but the next I knew I was lying on the ground bleeding from my nose and mouth and Bob was standing up shout-

ing: "Coward!" One of the fellows in the outer line too brave, himself, to join the volunteers who had come in to beat us out, was not disposed to believe in the surrender and had his gun leveled on Bob in spite of the handkerchief which was waving as a flag of truce. Sheriff Glispen, of Watonwan county, who was taking Bob's pistol from him, was also shouting to the fellow: "Don't shoot him or I will shoot you."

All of us but Bob had gone down at the first fire. Pitts, shot through the heart, lay dead; Jim, including the wound in the shoulder, he received at Northfield, had been shot five times, the most serious being the shot which shattered his upper jaw and lay embedded beneath the brain and a shot that buried itself underneath his groin and which gave him trouble until the day of his death. Including those received in and on the way from Northfield, I had eleven wounds. A bullet had pierced Bob's lung, but he was the only one left on his feet. His right arm useless and his pistol empty, he had no choice.

"I surrender," he had shouted. "They are all down but me. Come on; I will not shoot." And Sheriff Glispen's order not to shoot was the beginning of the protectorate that Minnesota people established over us.

We were taken into Madelia that day and our wounds dressed and I greeted my old landlord, Colonel Vought, who had been one of the seven to go in to get us. We were taken to his hotel and a guard posted. Then came the talk of mob vengeance we had heard so often in Missouri. It was said a mob would be out that night to lynch us. Sheriff Glispen swore we never would be mobbed as long as we were his prisoners. "I don't want any man to risk his life for us," I said to him, "but if they do come for us, give us our pistols so we can make a fight for it." "If they do come and I weaken," he said, "you can have your pistols." But the only mob that came was the mob of sightseers, reporters and detectives.

TO PRISON FOR LIFE.

On Saturday we were taken to Faribault, the county seat of Rice county, in which Northfield is, and here there was more talk of lynching, but Sheriff Ara Barton was not of that kind either, and we were guarded by militia until the excitement had subsided. At Faribault a policeman, who thought the militia guard was a bluff, bet five dollars he could go right up to the jail without being interfered with. He did not halt when challenged, and was fired upon and was killed. The coroner's jury acquitted the

militiaman who shot him. Some people blamed us for his death, too. Chief of Detectives McDonough, of St. Louis, whom I had passed a few months before in the Union depot at St. Louis, was among our visitors at Faribault.

Four indictments were found against us. One charged us with being accessory to the murder of Cashier Heywood; another with assaulting Bunker with intent to do great bodily harm, and the third with robbing the First National Bank of Northfield. The fourth charged me as principal, and my brothers as accessories, with the murder of Gustafson. Two witnesses had testified before the grand jury identifying me as the man who fired the shot that hit him, although I know I did not, because I fired no shot in that part of town. Although not one of us had fired the shot that killed either Heywood or Gustafson, our attorneys, Thomas Rutledge, of Madelia, and Bachelder and Buckham, of Faribault, asked, when we were arraigned, November 9, that we be given two days in which to plead. They advised us that as accessories were equally guilty with the principals, under the law, and as by pleading guilty we would escape capital punishment, we should plead guilty. There was little doubt, under the circumstances, of our conviction, and under the law as it stood then, an accused murderer who pleaded guilty was not subject to death penalty. The state was new, and the law had been made to offer inducement to murderers not to put the county to the expense of a trial.

The excitement that followed our sentence to state prison, which was popularly called "cheating the gallows," resulted in the change of the law in that respect. The following Saturday we pleaded guilty, and Judge Lord sentenced us to imprisonment for the remainder of our lives in the state prison at Stillwater, and a few days later we were taken there by Sheriff Barton. With Bob it was a life sentence, for he died there of consumption on September 16, 1880. He was never strong physically after being shot near Madelia.

NORTHFIELD BANK ROBBERY—BOUNTY DISTRIBUTION.

The following is an exact copy of an article that appeared in the *Madelia Times* in September, 1877: "Pursuant to the provisions of chapter one hundred and seventy-four of the laws of Minnesota, passed in the year 1877, notice is hereby given that at the court house in the village of Madelia on Tuesday, the twentieth day of September, 1877, at nine o'clock

in the forenoon. I will hear evidence for the purpose of determining who are entitled to share in the distribution of the state bounty, awarded by the act above referred to, for the capture of the Northfield Bank robbers. Signed, D. A. Dickinson, Judge of Sixth Judicial District."

There were nearly one hundred applicants who asked to share in the reward, but of this number only forty-two were successful. The average amount to each man was forty-five to forty-eight dollars.

CHAPTER XIX.

SIDELIGHTS.

POPULATION OF THE COUNTY.

According to the census reports of both state and United States the following facts have been obtained concerning the population of this county: In 1865 Watonwan had a population of two hundred and forty-nine, made up of forty-six families. In 1870 it had reached 2,434; in 1875 it was 4,024; in 1885 it was 5,995; in 1890 it was 7,746; in 1900 it was 11,496; in 1910 it had decreased to 11,382.

STATE CENSUS OF 1885.

Precincts.	Families.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Adrian township --	62	193	186	379
Antrim -----	91	286	148	434
Butterfield -----	44	123	133	256
Fieldon -----	71	205	181	386
Long Lake -----	72	234	168	402
Madelia -----	94	315	269	584
Madelia village ---	101	290	271	561
Nelson -----	93	288	258	546
Odin . -----	92	248	305	553
Riverdale -----	73	201	188	389
Rosendale -----	43	137	141	278
St. James -----	57	175	150	325
St. James village --	123	408	305	714
South Branch --	39	99	89	188
Totals - -----	1,055	3,202	2,791	5,995

POPULATION BY TOWNSHIPS IN 1910.

Adrian township -----	481	Nelson township -----	684
Antrim township -----	582	Odin township -----	604
Butterfield township -----	602	Odin village -----	139
Butterfield village -- -----	377	Ormsby (village part of) ----	66
Darfur village -----	72	Riverdale township -----	727
Fieldon township -----	535	Rosendale township -----	571
Lewisville village -----	218	St. James city -----	2,102
Long Lake township -----	583	St. James township -----	575
Madelia township -----	574	South Branch township -----	617
Madelia village -----	1,273		-----
		Total -----	11,382

According to the United States census returns in 1910 there were nationalities as follow: Total, 11,382, of which 8,850 were native born; German, 565; Sweden, 620; Norway, 876; Great Britain and Ireland, 97; Denmark, 65; Austria, 70; Russia, 123; other countries, 107.

In 1873 there were reported to the county clerk one hundred and forty-seven births and thirty-three deaths. Of the deaths reported, eight were caused directly by the storm of January 8.

The number of marriage licenses issued during the year 1874 was twenty-four. Number taking out naturalization papers, nineteen; citizens' papers, forty-eight. Number of births, one hundred and ninety-one; number of deaths, forty-five.

ALTITUDES OF THE COUNTY.

According to the government survey made a number of years since, the altitudes above the level of the sea for this county are as follow: At Madelia it is one thousand and twenty-five feet above the sea. The Watonwan river is nine hundred and seventy-nine feet above the sea. At St. James city the altitude is one thousand and seventy-three feet. At Butterfield it is eleven hundred and eighty-four feet. The highest point in the county is found in the southwestern corner, where it reaches thirteen hundred feet, and the lowest point is nine hundred and sixty feet.

Given by townships the reports show the following: Madelia township, one thousand and twenty-five feet; Fieldon township, one thousand and fifty feet; Antrim township, eleven hundred feet; Riverdale township, one

thousand and forty feet; Rosendale township, one thousand and sixty feet; South Branch township, eleven hundred and twenty feet; Nelson township, one thousand and seventy-five feet; St. James township, eleven hundred and twenty feet; Long Lake township, eleven hundred and fifty feet; Adrian township, eleven hundred and fifty feet; Butterfield township, twelve hundred feet; Odin township, twelve hundred and forty feet; the mean height of the county is eleven hundred and ten feet above the sea level.

VILLAGE PLATTINGS.

Since the organization of Brown and Watonwan counties, the following village plats have been surveyed and recorded—the village of Madelia being platted before the organization of this county, hence, is found in the transcripts from Brown county:

Madelia, platted by Surveyor Daniel Buck, for the proprietors, Daniel Haire, P. Hartshorn, Leander W. Sheppard, James Hudson and Stephen P. Benjamin. It was recorded July 9, 1857, and formed parts of sections 27 and 28, township 17, range 30, west. At first it was the seat of justice for the newly formed Watonwan county.

St. James was platted by Elias F. Drake, president of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad Company, as being a part of section 13, township 106, range 32, west. It was recorded October 8, 1870.

Butterfield was platted in section 27, township 106, range 33, west, on September 13, 1880, by E. F. Drake, president of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company.

Grogan was platted by B. R. Grogan and Moses K. Armstrong, in section 3, township 106, range 31, west, on September 6, 1891.

LaSalle was platted on October 12, 1899, by Harry L. and Anna L. Jenkins, as a part of section 17, township 107, range 31.

Echols was platted by Harry L. and Anna L. Jenkins, in section 3, township 105, range 32, west, October 12, 1899.

Ormsby was platted in section 32, township 105, range 32, west, by Harry L. and Anna L. Jenkins, October 14, 1899.

Odin was platted by the Western Town Lot Company, March 29, 1899, in section 25, township 105, range 33, west.

Darfur was platted by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, through its president, Marvin Hughett, April 20, 1899, in section 20, township 107, range 33, west.

Lewisville was platted by the Interstate Land Company, May 3, 1899.

in section 44, township 105, range 30, west, through the company's president, F. H. Peavey.

SPELLING SCHOOL.

The following is an account of a spelling school held in Flanders Hall, April, 1875, by some of the early settlers and their friends:

After considerable debate, E. H. Hill and W. R. Estes were prevailed to act as captains of the hosts; A. Frizzell was chosen enunciator. The first one having a very bad spell was W. R. Estes who showed that he did not know how to spell "rinse," producing it with w-r-i-n-t-z. The next was O. H. Davis, who proved that he was a rogue by giving that word, w-r-o-g-e, and presently Miss Elliot chimed with s-c-o-u-r-s-e, for source. B. G. Yates (a temperance advocate) took champaign instead of the sparkling champagne, and retired. W. Woods labored on lava with a-v-o-u-r.

G. W. Yates slipped on three trials and spelled cortege, but with a stern look and a gesture from Alonzo he left the ranks. E. H. Bill thinking a recreation very nice, desired to prolong it, but was forced to retreat by doubling the t in pastime; C. M. Delling and G. W. Tanner followed suit by doubling the s. Misses Dunn and Peck went down by misunderstanding equivalents, spelling it l-e-n-c-e. Mrs. Dunn added e to fresco and had to retire. G. P. Johnston, a dry-goods clerk, took salvage for selvedge; Mr. Dunn tried it with s-e-l-v-e-g-e and sat down.

E. H. Bill believes Miss Youngman more of Bible reader than her spelling "sheekle" would indicate. It is indelibly impressed upon the mind of Mrs. Clark that that word is spelled with one l. Miss Flora Cheney and F. D. Joy were still standing, but it being a very late hour it was thought best to adjourn.

OLD SETTLERS REUNION IN MADELIA, 1875

Although this meeting had unfortunately been appointed upon "blizzard day" (Tuesday, February 26, 1875), yet old settlers who have had the enterprise to push out into this new country in an early day were not to be daunted, so despite this storm an assembly of pioneers to the number of sixty gathered in Mr. Flanders' hall and had a very enjoyable time. Of those present, the one who had first set foot on Minnesota soil was Joseph Flanders, who came to the state in 1851, went away and returned in 1857. The next earliest was M. Delling and then P. C. Southorn, who came May 2, 1850.

The oldest settler in this vicinity present was Mrs. Isaac Slocum, who came in 1855. Dr. Tibil and family came soon after. A Mr. Law claims to be the oldest settler in the county, but was not at the meeting. There were many present who came in 1855 and still a greater number of those who came in 1857.

The partaking of a sumptuous supper prepared by the ladies of olden times, yet in the best style of modern days, was perhaps the most important event on the program. On one table was a monument of "johnnie cake," capped with the date 1855 and made by Mrs. I. Slocum from meal ground in a coffee mill, in remembrance of the best that day afforded as to material and manner of preparing it.

Dr. Tibil called the assembly to order and made some very sensible and spicy remarks as to his leaving home and the many conveniences in the East and coming out here in "God's pasture," as he termed it, where the only inhabitants were wild Indians. Mr. C. D. Ash also gave his reasons for leaving the rocky fields of New Hampshire, he being fully convinced that he could not make a mistake in seeking another location, and step by step reached the land of good health and good prospects.

Mr. D. Buck, of Mankato, was called on and responded by saying that he came to this place in 1857 and made the claim now in the farm of W. W. Murphy. He was in Madelia when the original townsite was laid out and did the surveying and platting of it. The proprietors of the site were Hartshorn, Shepard and Haire, and there was quite a controversy, which was detrimental to the place, as to what name should be given the village. According to Mr. Buck's version there was a little coincidence in this, inasmuch as Mr. Hartshorn had a daughter and Mr. Haire had a sister, each named Madelia, so it was resolved that the town should receive that name. Mr. Buck told of his experiences, one of which was that while boarding with a Mr. Benjamin, he slept on a pole bed and on the night that the comet of that year had been predicted to strike the earth, he went to turn over in bed when down came the bedstead and his first impression upon being so suddenly awakened was that the comet had struck Benjamin's house.

Mr. Flanders told of his early experiences, many of which were very amusing. He also said that one object he had in coming to this country was to "make circumstances." He related incidents concerning the poverty of the people of the early times; that frequently they did not have a meal in the house and that he had made a dinner of little fishes, caught by his children, cooked without salt and eaten with a little bread; yet all were happy.

Mr. Charles Kempfer related some amusing incidents of the early days

of yore and said that his object in coming was to get where land was cheap. He was followed by B. O. Kempfer, who, as he said, had imagined himself the star of the Empire state and had made his way westward. He had also seen jolly days in the early times and the only affront he remembered was in being called a young Irishman by Mr. Buck while driving survey stakes for him, when in reality he was a Pennsylvania-Dutchman.

SONG FOR THE OLD SETTLERS.

By Chas. A. Kempfer.

There's Socum and Pomeroy and Gilbert and Chase,
How well I remember each glad welcome face;
There's Barney and Bandy, Tom Rutledge and Pat,
They're all of them hearty and some of them fat.

Hurrah for the band, the brae little band,
The bold pioneers that settled the land.

There's Mullen and Shannon and old Mrs. Olds,
Nels Larsen and Jens and Helger so bold;
They've braved many storms and they've done very much,
And so has Doc Tibil and Theodore Dutch.

Hurrah for the band, the foe-daring band,
That faced the wild savage and settled the land.

There's Buck, the surveyor, the lawyer I mean,
When Madelia was grass and all of it green;
He "run" the townsite with compass so true,
And his legs were all wet with primitive dew.

Hurrah for the band, the gay-daring band,
The jolly good fellows that settled the land.

That night, while enjoying pure primitive dreams,
We awoke at the sound of Buck's terrible screams,
He "bust" out a-laffin', "he was quite dead,"
That "comet" justed "busted his primitive bed."

Hurrah for the band, the gay daring band,
The jolly good fellows that settled the land.

There's Hudson and Travis and Sprague and "Old Joe",
From old '57 their faces I know,
And all whom I've named I knew them well then,
Your poet is happy to meet them again.

Hurrah for the band, the musical band,
The pride of the gay boys that settled the land.

The "New Yankee Sled," fast friend of my muse,
We sang on that sled to keep off the blues,
The sled is now rotten, and we'll see it no more,
But the song and your faces are bright as of yore.

Hurrah for the band, John O'Brien's Brass Band,
That played for the heroes that settled the land.

GREAT STORMS.

In January, 1873, the thermometer made a sudden drop about two o'clock in the afternoon and the wind began blowing a hurricane from the northwest, followed by snow. It seems that for some reason that a great many of the country people had gone into the towns on this day and naturally were caught away from home in the storm. Some thought they were compelled to return home and therefore made the attempt. Among the number was Mrs. Charles Decker and Mrs. Chris Ash, both of whom lived near Madelia. When four miles from town they tied their team to a fence within thirty rods of a house, started to go with the wind and perished. A man and his team were found frozen to death near the Trowbridge farm, three miles southwest of St. James. A man living four or five miles west of Madelia succeeded in getting within twenty rods of a house when he was forced to unhitch his oxen, afterward found dead, and make his way with the wind the best he could. He finally reached the home of Mr. Duncan, just alive.

A gang of snow shovelers working for the railroad just out of St. James, saw the storm coming and started for the nearest house, but were overtaken. When they arrived they found one of their number missing, but weather conditions were such that they could not retrace their course. They remained in this house for two days and nights and then went in search of the poor lost victim, expecting to find him frozen stiff, if they were successful at all. In their diligent search they found signs of his existence and digging into a snow drift he sprang out all right and said he would like to have some breakfast.

In the Nelson settlement north of St. James four people met death from exposure. A child and her aunt, Mrs. P. Olt, lay in a barn for two days and nights without food before they were rescued. The child's feet were badly frozen and for some time her recovery was very doubtful.

The cold was intense and continued, resulting in great loss of live stock. All the stock that happened to be away from shelter when the storm came on perished as well as many that were under shelter.

HAIL STORM.

A terrific hail storm occurred throughout Watonwan county in July, 1870. Everything was felled in its path, all vegetables were ground into the earth and grass was cut off as though mown with a machine. Branches

of trees, one to two inches in diameter, were broken off like pipe stems; window glass broken in nearly every home and in places the sash broken. Poultry in the open were all killed, live stock bruised and in several cases badly injured. A brick house belonging to Nat Stevens near Willow Creek was blown down, killing a woman and injuring several others.

BLIZZARD BOUND.

The following is an account of an experience in a blizzard as told by one of the participants, and retold by Albert Uhlhorn:

One day in the early seventies F. H. Uhlhorn and John A. Miller coming with an ox team from the woods at the Big Cottonwood, were caught in a blizzard and when stalled in the snow hitched both yokes before one load and continued on their way. After several hours, Miller, by cold and fatigue was benumbed and nearly fell asleep. Having vainly tried to urge him along, Uhlhorn seeing no other way of arousing his friend, struck him a right smart crack over the back with the whip. This awakened Miller and looking up he exclaimed, "Sell war grad recht Fritz, grad jetzt kan ich sehne wo wer sind," (Penn. Dutch), and with that he fell into that firm and elastic step so characteristic of a veteran of the Potomac army. Soon they reached a farm house and were sheltered.

ADVANTAGES OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

This county is blessed with a splendid soil and plenty of good well water at a depth of from twenty to fifty feet; numerous lakes and streams with plenty of fish; a county with numerous railroads, thriving cities and villages, dotted with school houses, churches and creameries. And a county with a law-abiding, industrious population, a healthy climate and absolutely free from poisonous reptiles and insects.

The needs of the county are not many, but a few should be mentioned. First, more capital at a lower interest and longer time; second, a drainage system within the reach of all who need it.

CORNER-STONE LAYING.

Upon the final completion of the new courthouse basement, and on August 15, 1895, there was a corner-stone laying ceremony performed under the management of the Masonic fraternity. There were four hun-

dred Masons present, many coming from distant parts of the state. In the stone was affixed a metal box in which was enclosed many articles, including a copy of the *Plaindealer*, *Journal*, *Madelia Times* and *Messenger*, local papers of this county; Masonic papers, sealed envelope from Postmaster J. J. Thornton, daily papers of the state and those from Windom.

The oration of the day was delivered by Hon. W. S. Hammond, grand orator, a portion of which read as follows, and is here given place from the fact that the address was able, eloquent, and somewhat prophetic in its character:

"When the future history of Watonwan county is written, the historian will designate the year 1895 as a memorable one. The writer will say that in that year the harvests were greater than they had ever been before in the history of this county; he will say the shocks of grain were so thick in some fields that a wagon could not be driven across them. A year of great promise and a year of mighty realization. In that year he will also say there was completed a court house, built not for a single day, and not for a single generation, but constructed of such materials and erected with such care and skill that it was destined by its builders to be used for county purposes for many more years.

"Man is a builder. In his primitive state he builds to protect himself from the summer's heat and winter's cold, from the snow and the pelting rain. His retreat may be a cave in the ledge sufficient to satisfy his wants, with little labor bestowed upon it by him, or it may be a shelter fashioned from the boughs of the forest. But when communities are formed and attachments made, as wealth accumulates and civilization spreads, a demand arises for buildings of a different character. Strength, convenience and beauty are then sought. Nearly all the great nations of the world have left great buildings and monuments, or the record of such buildings or monuments for their descendants to admire and study. Ages ago men were carrying stones from Arabia and Ethiopia and building vast monuments near **that city of famous temples, the capital of Middle Egypt.** Today those inspiring pyramids attract pilgrims from all parts of the world, who gaze with awe and wonder at their majestic proportions.

"In modern days, buildings have not ceased to be built, and the public buildings of many national and municipal governments are memorials of the work and labor of illustrious architects and skillful and cunning artisans. Unlike the buildings of old, they will not be destroyed by the savage barbarian, but will remain until another people, in another age, will remove them to build again where they stood.

GROWTH OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

"This county, today, is only thirty-four years old; has a valuation of five million dollars and personal property valued at a million and a half dollars. The population of the county in 1865 was only two hundred and forty-eight; in 1890 it was seven thousand eleven hundred; today its almost ten thousand, which gives every individual therein about six hundred and fifty dollars. When we consider that forty years ago there was no one living here save the wandering bands of savages who roamed at will over these rolling prairies, caring little for this rich soil under foot—this rich loam—which was capable of producing wheat, corn, rye, oats, flax, barley and vegetables in great quantities, but seeking out the game of the prairies or the fish from the innumerable lakes, and when one considers that the early settlers of this county like the pioneers of New England, came here without abundant resources, but dependent upon the value of their crops in distant markets; obliged to carry their household supplies and their necessary farming machinery over rough and untraveled roads many long miles and undergoing nearly as great an amount of hardship and labor in taking their products to market as in harvesting it; and when we consider ravages of the Indians in their uprising in 1862, and the terror inspired in the minds of the old settlers by the tales of Indian barbarities and the tortures inflicted upon those who were unfortunate enough to fall into hands of the blood-thirsty, marauding Indians, caused many to leave their homes and seek places where they might at least live in peace.

"When one considers the grasshoppers of the seventies, which like the Egyptian locust, so covered the face of the earth that the land was darkened, and they ate the herbs of the land until there was no more green things, sweeping out of existence the hard-earned savings of the husbandman who year after year, purchased seed wheat and oats for his crop, which in the end he was not able to harvest, but was driven into debt in order to supply themselves with the bare necessities of life; and when one considers the great storms of hail that followed, and that, unlike the hail storm Pharaoh knew, did not only take the barley in the ear and the flax in the boll, but took the wheat and the rye; when one considers all those drawbacks in the development of this county, and considers its present prosperity, we cannot wonder at the energy and perseverance and the strength of character of the men and women who have cultivated these fields, year after year, and who have made this county what it is today.

Well fares the land, from threatening ills secure,
Where wealth accumulates and men endure.

"The hardships attending the early settlement of this county have all been safely passed through. The public records wherein the owners of all this property are shown have become themselves records of great value. Their loss would be an incalculable damage to the property owners of this county. After they have been placed in this new building there need be little fear that fire will destroy them. The business of the county is growing and as year by year the volume of business increases, the county should have it transacted in proper offices and buildings, where the accounts and reports may be preserved from loss.

"May this building be successfully completed, as it has been begun. May it remain for years a monument of the thrift, the foresight and prosperity of the people. May it remind future generations now unborn, of the progressive type of their fathers, and how they established a county on the vacant prairies and founding it with a suitable structure for its needs and demands. May those who look upon this building be inspired themselves still further to improve and beautify their surroundings."

It will be remembered that the foregoing was an oration delivered by a young lawyer who rose to hold the positions of governor, congressman and who died at St. James before the court house was scarcely a score of years old.

GRASSHOPPERS.

In the spring of 1875 the people of Watonwan county were rejoicing because they thought they were going to be missed by the grasshoppers. But early in July came news from the north and east that the pests were on their way. One morning about ten o'clock, a few days after the report, the air was seen to be full of them. Borne along by northeast winds, they passed over in clouds almost darkening the sun. In the afternoon they commenced lighting and before night the ground was covered with them. At once they began gnawing at the crops with ravenous appetites. The next day there was a little wind from the same direction, but they did not move. On the Monday following the wind had shifted in the northwest. They attempted to rise and fly southwest, but made little headway. This same program continued during the summer.

The citizens of Antrim township took the situation in earnest and called a meeting at the home of J. B. Firmenich for the purpose of concerted action. A brief record of the meeting is given. "Resolved, that the farmers take the first week in October to secure their places from fire; Resolved,

that no person shall start a fire for the purpose of securing their places with less than three men; Resolved, that each person present be a committee of one to detect and prosecute any person setting fire carelessly or with intention of doing damage; Resolved, that all present shall go and subdue any fire that shall get from any party. The request of this meeting is that every farmer in the township will act in accordance and also save straw."

GRASSHOPPER CATCHER.

Mr. C. C. Sylvester, of Watonwan county, devised a machine for catching grasshoppers. It was practical in character, being adjustable in its several parts, to work with either one or two horses. It could be raised and lowered according to the wishes of the operator. The canvas upon which the hoppers fell was easily removed from the machine and in its removal was brought into a sack, so that none of the captured could escape. In front of the canvas was a reel which drove the pests into the trap. The cost of the machine was about ten dollars.

A Mr. Leonard and a Mr. Munson also built a machine for the same purpose. It differed considerably from Mr. Sylvester's, except that the power was applied in the same way. It had no reel, but instead two flags extended out at the sides to scare the insects toward the center. On top were bows to support a canvas covering and on the bottom was a revolving apron which ran fast and carried the hoppers into the rear sack, which could be detached and emptied.

The ravages of the grasshoppers upon the meager crops of the pioneers caused many of them to become almost destitute. This circumstance called for help which resulted in private, state and national assistance.

In July, 1874, the state furnished ninety sacks and ten barrels of flour to the county commissioners to be distributed in the several districts to those who were in absolute need. The same year twenty-five business men of Minneapolis gave a substantial sum to the frontier relief fund. Congress came to the rescue about the same time and passed the bill submitted by Representative Dunnell, enabling the settlers who had pre-empted land in ten or more counties in southwestern Minnesota to maintain titles to their farms while they were compelled to be away on account of the grasshopper plague. The limit fixed by the bill was July 1, 1875.

In January, 1875, Congress passed a bill providing for an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars for the relief of the grasshopper sufferers in southwestern Minnesota. In 1878 they passed a similar bill providing for an appropriation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

In 1877 the state Legislature passed the "Grasshopper" bill, a part of which is herein given: Section 1—Money shall be paid by the state not otherwise appropriated to persons living within the counties affected with grasshoppers for destruction of the insects and their eggs. Section 2—Grants—One dollar per bushel before June 1st; fifty cents between that time and June 10th; twenty cents until October 1st. Section 3—Grants—Fifty cents per gallon for all grasshopper eggs taken and destroyed. Section 4—Authorizes the county commissioners to appoint suitable person in each township to receive, measure and destroy all insects and eggs and he shall be under oath to faithfully discharge his duties and shall be paid out of the county fund such sum as the county shall fix upon. The state appropriated one hundred thousand dollars in carrying out this act.

BIRDS AND WILD ANIMALS.

When the pioneers first came to this part of Minnesota they found many birds and animals common that are not now known at all. Yet, they still found more of such birds and animals that one would naturally look for after the hand of civilized life has so materially changed the condition of things.

Of the species of birds that inhabited both timber, valley and prairie plains, these were quite common in the fifties and sixties and many are still with us to charm and cheer the lover of real true nature: Turkey buzzard, hawks (several species), eagles, owls (three species), woodpeckers (two species), humming-bird, swallows (three species), whippoorwill, nighthawk, kingfisher, fly-catcher, thrush, robin-red-breast, blue birds, wren, scarlet tanager, cedar bird, shrike, cat bird, American creeper, nuthatch, titmouse, goldfinch, snow bunting, sparrow, cow-bird, blackbirds (three species), meadow-lark, oriole, crow, blue jay, wild pigeon, turtle dove, prairie chicken, partridge, quail, sandhill crane, blue heron, bittern or stake-driver, night heron, kill-deer, woodcock, snipe, rail, snow goose, Canada goose, brant, mallard, teal, spoonbill, wood duck, canvas back, butter ball, gull, tern, loon, grebe or mud-hen.

Of the mammals found roaming at will over this portion of Minnesota when white men first settled it, may be mentioned the following: Bats, schrews, mole, lynx, wild-cat, prairie wolf, fox, timber wolf, fischer, weasel, mink, otter, beaver, skunk, badger, raccoon, red squirrel, gray squirrel, flying squirrel, chipmunk, striped gopher, pocket gopher, prairie squirrel, woodchuck, mice (several species), rat, muskrat, jack rabbit, rabbit, northern rabbit, elk, deer and buffalo.

CHAPTER XX.

REMINISCENCES.

The following reminiscences of early days in this county was written by Alexander Swanson, and published in the *St. James Plaindealer* a number of years ago. Mr. Swanson still resides at St. James, a well-preserved and well-posted gentleman.

It was in Adrian township, section 12, during the month of June, 1870, that Alexander Swanson broke the first land and brought the first load of lumber from Lake Crystal and erected the first so-called "homestead building" in harmony with the style that was already in vogue, namely, to find an elevation of the land, sloping southward or eastward and there select a choice lot for digging a basement, making the room below the ground two or three feet deep. The dimensions of the building were ten by twelve by six. Common lumber was used for the walls and the roof, then it was sided with genuine "homestead siding" or plowed sod. Shingles were not to be found, so the roof was covered with slough grass, which staple article then grew in abundance. Then the same material was used to top off the roof as had previously served as a covering for the walls. The only windows consisted of panes ten by twelve in size. The door faced either toward the south or the east. The floor was composed of hard, shoveled clay; very few of the pioneers could afford to have a floor of wood material. This was the prevalent method employed by the Scandinavians in Watonwan county. The Americans were more satisfied with the common "claim shanty" and they boasted over the fact that their residences presented a more civilized aspect. In a good-natured way they spoke of the Scandinavian homes as "gopher huts." Yet it must be admitted that their claim shanties more easily became the prey of the fierce fires than what was customary with the sod huts.

THE FIRST HOUSE.

The first house erected in that vicinity that was covered with a shingle roof was built in the spring of 1872 in the south portion of section 12, Adrian township. But this magnificent building was not long privileged to

tower above the sod huts, because already in the month of May, that year, it was laid waste by a hurricane. The owner, Ole Boman, was upstairs when the roof was lifted off and carried away. One portion of the building, while performing the act of moving to new quarters, happened to meet Mr. Boman's sister, Lena, in its course and struck her so violently that her leg was crushed, splinters of the bone being visible through the skin.

The family was now placed in an unenviable condition. No doctor could be reached at a nearer distance than Mankato, and no team of horses was to be found in the settlement. But as Mr. Boman was daring and resolute he undertook to perform the surgical act. Using his razor as an instrument he opened up the wounded spot, placed the splinter of bone into its natural place and bandaged it. No chloroform was used. The only characteristic here made prominent was courage, mingled with a decided purpose to accomplish what was necessary. The operation was a success and after a long time of intense suffering Miss Boman completely recovered. She was afterwards united in marriage to Mr. C. W. Samuelson and became the mother of Alfred Samuelson and Mrs. Willis Nelson. This is mentioned for the mere purpose of illustrating what privations and endurance the early pioneers had to experience. The theory was now established with an emphasis that it was not advisable to build any other dwelling than sod huts on the prairie. But times have changed and so have the methods of living. The sod houses have disappeared and replaced by buildings of a different frame and style and the pioneer has become accustomed to homes just as modern as any American may care to live in.

TRANSPORTATION TROUBLES.

When the earliest settlers arrived here they were not to be accommodated with graded roads, or roads of any kind or description, but had to drive wherever it was possible to move forward. When rivers or creeks checked the way it was customary to fasten the wagon box to the running gears with a rope and urge the faithful steers to plunge in for a swim across the stream. In this way and mode of traveling a long time elapsed before any tracks of wagon wheels became visible, thus indicating a team road. The first wagon track that formed a line across the prairie in the Adrian and Sveadahl settlement was to be seen in 1871, when a government caravan carrying provisions from some fort in South Dakota passed through. The caravan consisted of forty heavily loaded dray wagons, each headed

by three teams of mules. The route was directed from Big Bend via Mountain Lake through Adrian northeasterly, passing west of Lake Hanska, heading for New Ulm. The settlers could henceforth pride themselves on having at least one road.

Speaking of bridges, the first one built in the Adrian vicinity was on the south line of section 12, near where the present steel bridge is located. The means to defray the building expenses were raised through voluntary subscription. The work was freely offered and performed by settlers. The wood material was brought from the forests near Ibero. But the bridge had one deplorable characteristic, and that was to betake itself to some knoll of high ground whenever high water occurred. Later, it was burned up in a prairie fire. This necessitated the building of a new one and now the settlers extended their subscriptions as far as St. James, where ten dollars was received. Soon the pioneers felt proud of their new and more substantial structure, which was at that time the only bridge, for many miles, across the north branch of the Watonwan river.

The settlers in this county were not troubled by Indian outbreaks as had happened in settlements farther east, but they had their enemies just the same. The small patches of land that were cultivated became the assembling places for all the birds under the heavens. Occasionally they became so aggressive that the farmer had to leave his dinner for the purpose of chasing them away. Gophers also carried on their destructive work, but the bitterest enemy was the annual prairie fire, which came during the fall months. The one that was perhaps the most severe came in the fall of 1871, shortly after the big Chicago fire. The whole prairie presented the appearance of a flaming sea. Many people lost their homes and nearly all their possessions, including their crops. But this was not all. Following came the boreal winds sweeping the snow along into drifts and blockading every house. Several families were closed in their primitive residences for days and were finally helped out by neighbors. The railroad companies also had to experience many hardships that winter. Several futile attempts were made to open the road, but not until March was traffic resumed. What hardships the settlers had to encounter can only be realized by those who partook in the work to prepare the way for civilization in those pioneer days. The elements were not always in quietness during the early days. Thus can be mentioned the big snow storm in January, 1872, when so many people perished; some at the very threshold of their homes. Some of the men were away at the Ibero mill, where they had to remain for three days.

PRIVATIONS OF PIONEERS.

The first ten years as settlers mark an epoch of privations and poverty alike to all. If it were these common experiences that account for it, or the spirit of the age, cannot be said, but anyway one cannot help but notice the commendable traits of the people, the friendships, the unanimity and helpfulness among them. Neighbors would willingly lend to each other not only agricultural implements and household goods, but articles of food as well. Thus, flour was such an article to be borrowed and loaned, giving occasion to the saying that each family has its own household, but the flour is common. The reason for this was that the mill at Ibera was often so overtaxed that one had to feel satisfied in getting ten bushels of wheat ground now and then. Arriving at home the settler would notify his neighbors that he had been to mill and they soon would arrive for their shares of the grist, which was divided into small quantities to each family. When the next neighbor would go to mill the conditions were similar.

Each one of the old settlers feels thankful at this time that he has been privileged to partake in the upbuilding of a community, of establishing schools, churches and other institutions of culture and civilization.

Back in 1872 and along to the early eighties the country comprising Watonwan county was a vast rolling prairie covered with an abundance of grasses and wild flowers, traversed by torrent streams and containing countless sloughs, all filled with wild game, such as geese, cranes, ducks, prairie chickens, snipe, blackbirds, larks, bob-o-links and numerous other song birds; jack rabbits, gophers, mink, muskrats, etc.

Only ten years prior to this early period the Sioux Indians had stealthily gone over these prairies, on murder bent, but it was now being settled by immigrants, mostly from Germany, Scandinavia and the Green Isle, and a large number of Civil War veterans, commonly known as Yankees. Then it was a common occurrence to see those neighbors as they stood together, the Yankees doing most of the talking, while the Swedes and the Germans would assent with "Ay tank so," and "Ja, Ja; dad is mine ida!"

Well, they not only talked. They had homesteads, but there were no houses, no stables, no fields, no groves, no roads, no churches, no school houses and no money, or at least very, very little of it. He was rich who had a team of oxen, a cow, a hog, a wagon and a breaking plow and no debts. But these men, and women too, had a strong will and strong arms. They went about looking for a hillside on which to build a house, often

made of rough lumber with sod piled against it; a foot thick for walls, one window with four eight-by-ten-inch panes of glass and one door. This constituted the pioneer's palace, which was usually about ten by twelve by six. In the fall a stable was built of sod with a hay roof only.

The younger generation may smile, but it is nevertheless true that the pioneer children were never happier than when they were sitting with their parents in those huts, around the stove in which a fire of green wood and hay twists kept them warm. Then the father would teach them to read and write Deutsch (German), hoping that by the next winter the district would organize, build a school house and hire a teacher to teach them English, while the mother mended the clothes, knit stockings and mittens or made a cap of muskrat skins.

THE CHILDREN HELPED.

In the summer the children watched the cattle, day in and day out, Sundays and week days, in cold and rain, heat or hail, with no shelter but their clothing, which was often "absent" at the knees and elbows. Mother had no time for mending them. She was with the elder children, helping the father in the field, breaking prairie, which was not an easy task, with ox teams, for if the lead team took a notion to go home or to take a bath in a nearby slough, they did it, as there were no lines with which to hold them. Besides the mother helped at haying but not with mowers, hay rakes, loaders and stackers. No, they had a scythe, a hand rake and hand forks, or they had to wait for the neighbor who was lucky enough to own a mower-reaper to do the cutting. The first machine that cut the grain was a mower-dropper, which dropped the bundle at the driver's will, right behind the sickle-bar, and they had to be bound before the team came around again. There are very few of the present generation who can bind a hand-bundle tie correctly. Then the shocking was done at night, when all helped along.

But these were not the greatest trials. They had the grasshoppers for five years in succession. This plague ate and destroyed all cultivated crops except potatoes. They tried to catch them when small in open ditches made around the field, into which they would jump, to be burned or pounded to death, or in a large bag with a stick across the top, which was carried rapidly over the fields to catch them. At one time the state offered a bonus of ten cents per bushel for dead grasshoppers. This did not check them however. In one instance a farmer sowed sixty bushels of wheat and threshed out four, and had a family of seven to provide for.

TRIBUTE TO PIONEER HEROES.

In the early days prayers were offered up more fervently than they are today. Those were the days when the weeping mothers were thankful when they had a crushed potato with some milk to give their little ones, and the fathers, hoping, yet fearful, held onto that patch of land which is now referred to as the old farm, little thinking what heroes they were, who made it what it is today. Look about you and behold these venerable men and women, now adorned with the snow of years—years spent in wresting the beautiful homes we now see from adverse circumstances. Fewer will there be each year and many there are who have gone to their final resting place and reward. The pioneers are entitled to the name hero and deserve as much reverent consideration as the boys in blue of the First Minnesota who checked Picket's division at Gettysburg, although their deeds are not now described in such brilliant language nor commemorated by monuments.

Those days of trial went by. Bridges, roads, churches and school houses were built, teachers were hired and a new epoch began. But just a few words about the school house and the first days of school. The house was a wooden structure with lap siding and building paper for walls. No plaster, a tin stove and flax straw for fuel. But strange as it may seem, no scholar ever became seriously ill or ever complained. Going to school was their recreation, their greatest joy, their chance to learn. And then there was the school ma'am. She seemed like a fairy from some distant land, filling the heads of the little ones with wisdom and those of the bigger boys with lovely dreams. In this respect there has not been a decided change. In the evenings, when the weather was not too unfavorable and the children had their lessons for the following day, the family would walk for miles over the snow or prairie for a visit, but it is not so now. Times have changed from ox teams to automobiles, yet people seem less contented now than forty-four years ago.

May 17, 1866, marked the completion of the Minnesota Valley railroad as far east as Mankato. Therefore, when this point was reached by rail there was no other way for the early settler to get to his destination except to walk. However, in 1871, the same road continued the construction of their line from St. James to Sioux City. The railroad was given a land grant of every other section as 1, 3, 5, etc. Then the rest was open to homestead and every settler was to own all the land inside of the local grants, except sections 16 and 36, which were known as school lands. Ac-

according to the terms of the old land grant to the Minnesota Valley railroad, their property was to be free of taxation so long as it remained in their hands. During this time no attempts were made to sell any of the land. Not many years passed until the road changed ownership and became known as the St. Paul & Sioux City road. Immediately the state Legislature passed a law requiring this same road to pay taxes which meant that the railroad company at once opened up its land to settlers and homesteaders. The first land sold at from five to eight dollars per acre.

THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

The grasshopper plague lasted from 1873 to 1877. Coming at a time when the early settlers were just beginning to make a start meant undue hardships for them. Nothing escaped the pests and as a result the settlers made a bare subsistence for a period of five long years. This plague was not confined to southwestern Minnesota, but to other states as well. From Fargo Falls on the north they swept the western part of Iowa, finally taking in the whole state as well as parts of Illinois and Wisconsin.

The early prairie fires had completely destroyed the forests so that with the coming of the early settlers the average tree was no larger than the usual walking cane. From St. James to Madelia there was not a tree standing sufficient to make a cord of wood, with the possible exception of those around the Long and Kansas lakes, where they had been protected. Therefore, the trees that are now seen have been planted during the last forty years.

Continuing the story of the railroad construction from St. James to Sioux City, they hired six hundred men who were grouped into nine camps two miles apart. A day's work was ten hours, for which the laborer received one dollar and seventy-five cents. Board cost him four dollars per week. In all other work the average working day was eleven hours. Every camp contained three gangs and three foremen. Colonel Allen, of St. Paul, was the head contractor, and General Bishop was chief surveyor and engineer.

All the provisions were hauled from St. Paul and Mankato. The meals all had a kind of a sameness, consisting of pork and beans, black coffee and brown sugar and, occasionally, dried apples and rice. No vegetables of any kind were ever served and not a drop of milk nor an egg was ever seen in camp. The cooking was all done by men. Strange as it may seem, during

a period of six months only three or four men were sent from work on account of sickness. Drinking water was secured from shallow wells and wet weather springs and dry as some of the men became not a drop of whiskey was drunk.

In August the track was laid as far as St. James and it was hoped that Worthington might be reached by the time winter set in. At that time the place was just a village situated near Okobena Lake. However, in November winter set in with an old-fashioned blizzard and the track was laid only as far as Heron Lake, which was ten miles from Worthington. During this blizzard and snow storm Worthington became isolated from the outer world, without fuel and necessary provisions. The next spring the track was laid to Worthington and on to Sioux City.

EXIT THE GRASSHOPPER.

In 1877 or about the time the grasshoppers were leaving, the question arose among the settlers as to how they should continue to hold out under such circumstances. Then in the fall came the prairie fire which swept everything clean. Some idea of how fast the fire traveled may be gained from the fact that a distance of seventy-five miles was burned over in twenty-four hours. With few provisions at hand and the horrors of another winter staring the settlers in the face, the future appeared dark, indeed. But they were all young people, healthy and courageous, able and willing to endure hardships for the sake of a home. With the coming of spring the men sought work on the farms in the eastern part of the state, leaving their wives and children behind to look after their homestead and lay up provisions for winter. Wages during summer were not more than twelve dollars per month, with board and washing included. When the fall work was over the homesteader returned to his family.

AMUSEMENTS NIL.

There were no amusements in the pioneer days. There were no dances, because there were no places to dance. There were no husking bees, because the birds and small animals ate up all the corn that the grasshoppers left. There could be no spellings, because there were no schools. There was very little entertaining, as the little sod huts of one or possibly two rooms and with a clay floor about two feet below the surface of the ground,

would not permit of large gatherings. In fact, the greatest amusement of all was work; just plain hard work and seeing things grow.

It can hardly be said that the pioneers received any mail service. They were fortunate if they received their mail such as it was once a month. Whenever a neighbor should go to St. James, and that was very seldom, he would get the mail for the whole neighborhood. Occasionally, a man from the neighborhood would walk to St. Peter for the newspapers, whose publications were few and quite irregular. It was in a Swedish settlement only that there were subscribers to a paper, which was one from Chicago. The number of subscribers were two.

EARLY MARKET.

Fresh, home-churned butter sold in St. James for five cents a pound in trade; no cash. Likewise, fresh eggs sold for five cents per dozen, but only in trade. As some of the settlers became more prosperous they would fatten a pig to sell. There was no sale for the animal on foot, so it had to be killed and dressed and then the owners were lucky to dispose of it at four cents per pound. Later on, when the settlers began to raise more stock, a stock buyer would come around to buy all the two-year-old steers, never a heifer, for which he would pay fifteen to seventeen dollars apiece.

TOOLS AND MACHINERY.

In the early pioneer days there were no tools and machinery to speak of for harvesting the crops. For instance, the grass had to be cut with the scythe and raked with a hand rake. But as time and improvement went on there was usually some man in a community who could afford to buy a mower or rake, perhaps both. Then he would cut and rake the crops of his neighbors for so much a day. Great advance was made in the harvesting of crops with the coming of the reaper. Farmers traded work, and when it came time to harvest the grain, all the men and women in a community would go from place to place doing the binding. Women bound just the same as men and quite often the best and most rapid binders were among their number. In some cases it was necessary to hire men, who were paid at the rate of two dollars per day in harvest.

CHAPTER XXI.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

No little interest is attached to the prices paid for various farm products and retail store goods, at different times in the history of any community, hence the following quotations are here given, the same being the prevailing prices at either St. James or Madelia since the settlement of the county, commencing in 1874. Those before cannot be established correctly, as no newspapers were published and files preserved before that date:

Wheat, 90 cents; corn, 40 cents; oats, 40 cents; potatoes, 95 cents; barley, 40 cents; flour, \$2.75 per hundred; butter, 15 cents; eggs, 20 cents; lard, 10 cents. This obtained in the month of November, 1874, at Madelia.

September, 1892, at St. James: Wheat, 60 cents; oats, 23 cents; flax, 89 cents; corn, 25 cents; butter, 15 cents; eggs, 14 cents.

At St. James in 1913: Wheat, 76 cents, corn, 58 cents; barley, 50 cents; flax, \$1.24; rye, 48 cents; hogs, \$6.80 and \$7.25; cows, \$5.50; steers, \$6 to \$7; live turkeys, 12 cents; geese, 6 cents; eggs, 22 cents; butter, 22 to 30 cents; potatoes, 60 cents.

At St. James in July, 1916, these prices obtained: Wheat, No. 1 Northern, \$1.07; corn, 77 cents; oats, 36 cents; barley, 67 cents; rye, 92 cents; flax, \$1.80; draft horses, \$125 to \$215; feeding steers, \$7 to \$7.50; choice fed steers, \$9.25 to \$10; medium, \$7 to \$8; yearlings, \$8 to \$10; cows, \$6.75 to \$8; hogs, \$6.50 to \$6.70; sheep, \$5 to \$8; butter, 27 cents; eggs, 22 cents; gasoline, 23 cents. Three and a half cents per pound was paid for old scrap paper during 1916.

ANTI-HORSE THIEF ASSOCIATION.

In the past years, though well settled, this and adjoining counties have suffered loss at the hands of horse thieves. In 1894 there was organized a society for the prevention of horse stealing in Watonwan county. A long constitution was adopted and many members paid a nominal fee and became

active members of the society. The first officers were: Robert Rowland, president; E. A. Gibbs, vice-president; J. W. Somers, secretary; L. O. Ulvestad, treasurer, and "riders" as follow: Ernest Uhlhorn, Adrian township; Frank Dewar and I. C. Lindley, Antrim township; C. Melheim, and J. Rempel, Butterfield township; William Gillispie and Ross Sargent, Fieldon township; Bernt Olson and L. Larson, Long Lake township; H. C. King and E. H. Bill, village of Madelia; P. J. Gjertson and W. W. Murphy, Madelia township; Nels Newberg, and John Olson, Nelson township; S. Nass and one more from Odum township; J. Grogan and Gustav Durheim, Riverdale township; W. N. Foote, and K. S. Thompson, Rosendale, township; Otto Wenstrom and G. W. Forsythe, St. James village; Robert Rowland and J. W. Somers, St. James township; Bert Sharp and George Stradtman, South Branch township.

This society was the means of stopping horse thieving in the county to a large extent. They also aided other counties in this and adjoining states in capturing stolen horses and cattle.

THE PROHIBITION QUESTION.

The matter of prohibiting the sale and use of intoxicating liquors in this, as in all other counties, has been one that has engaged the minds of the voters and law-makers for many years. With the progress made by the temperance element, many counties have been placed in the "dry column" in recent years, and it is believed that before long the entire state will be free from the curse of the saloon. Local option, low license, high license and many other plans have been operated, but none have proven as satisfactory to the better element and communities as total prohibition. In 1915 Watonwan county went "dry," as the term goes now-a-days, when total prohibition is in effect. The village of Madelia went dry in March, 1910, and St. James in 1915. Concerning this question at Madelia it may be stated that four years after the village became entirely saloonless, seventeen good and tried citizens and business men of that village signed the following statement:

"During the dry period business has been good each year and has been the best in 1913. Many new dwellings have been built this year which are occupied soon as completed. Not a vacant house or store building is found in town. The village was never in better condition than now. Moral conditions are unsurpassed.

"The majority against licenses increases each year, the majority in March, 1913, being the largest ever given against license in this village. We believe the licensed saloon to be a detriment, financially, morally and socially to any community and we are unalterably opposed to the saloon in any form. We propose to do as we have in the past, viz., oppose the licensed saloon in this town with all our power. (Signed) George S. Hage, D. E. Peterson, W. A. Mullen, B. James, S. Larson, M. S. Dosset, M. Olson, E. A. Hagaman, C. T. Haugen, O. A. Crosby, N. Pederson, R. M. Sargent, T. Patterson, A. J. McLean, James N. McCarty."

LOCAL OPTION VOTE IN 1915.

The county of Watonwan voted at a special election held in March, 1915, on the question of whether or not saloons should be allowed a license in the county. The vote stood as follows:

	Yes.	No.		Yes.	No.
Madelia -----	68	33	Madelia village -----	202	103
Fieldon -----	44	49	Lewisville village -----	24	49
Antrim -----	35	60	Ormsby village -----	12	11
South Branch -----	25	68	Odin village -----	33	66
Rosendale -----	48	50	Butterfield village -----	45	57
Riverdale -----	105	49	Darfur village -----	5	20
Nelson -----	120	28	St. James City (1st		
St. James -----	50	76	ward) -----	137	183
Long Lake -----	100	33	St. James City 2nd		
Odin -----	78	32	ward) -----	128	142
Butterfield -----	56	37		—	—
Adrian -----	57	39	Majority for Prohibition		247

"RUSSIAN THISTLE DAY."

Monday, July 7, 1895, was Russian Thistle Day in this county. The Russian thistle had come to be so thick that the farming community was being greatly damaged. This obnoxious plant had been drifting in from the northwest, from the Dakotas and northern Minnesota until it seemed to have almost thwarted the plans of the best experts at annihilating it. The county commissioners resolved that July 7, 1895, should be fixed as the day and date for the destruction of all Russian thistles standing or growing in Watonwan county, Minnesota.

The record has the following: "All Russian thistles found standing or growing in said county after the said date will be destroyed by public authority at the expense of the owner or occupant of the lands upon which said Russian thistle may be found, and said owner or occupant failing to destroy said Russian thistle before the date fixed is liable to prosecution for misdemeanor and for maintaining a public nuisance."

The following year another "Thistle Day" was fixed by the county commissioners in September, 1896.



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